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Kent on Sunday

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Thousands of kids live in care in the aftermath of Baby P

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TWO children are being taken into care every week in Kent and Medway to join the hundreds of others currently being looked after by councils after suffering abuse and neglect.

Official government figures for Kent County Council show a staggering number of looked-after children, with 1,800 living in care in 2011-12.

And worryingly, this doesn't include the 1,200 out-of-county youngsters, sent into Kent's care system from other authorities.

The latest statistics show that since 2008 the number of Kent-born children in care in the county has risen by a third from 1,355 to 1,800.

The biggest year-on-year increase was seen between 2010 and 2011 in the wake of the horrific abuse case of Baby P, with 215 children – four a week – being taken into care in Kent.

Social care experts said the case had created a culture of fear within the profession after social workers came under fire for not removing the child from his home sooner.

The most common reason for children being looked after by the state is neglect and abuse, followed by parental illness and disability, or family in acute stress.

Across the Medway towns, the number of children being taken into care has risen by a staggering 43 per cent between 2009 and 2012.

Figures show a total of 445 looked-after children in 2012, up from 310 in 2009. As with KCC, Medway Council's

Continued on page 2

THEATRE

PANTO HITS TOWN

THE cast of Chatham's Christmas pantomime - Cinderella - met for the first time last week and took to the streets.

Stars included EastEnders and Celebrity Big Brother's Cheryl Fergison as the Fairy Godmother, and Britain's Got Talent finalist Paul Burling as Buttons.

The cast walked through Chatham town centre in full costume to whip up interest in the production, which runs from December 13 to January 6 at the Central Theatre.

Some shoppers were serenaded by singer Josh Dubovie, Prince Charming in the show, as he gave away red roses. Pictures: Simon Kelsey/PraxisDesign

FOOD

Michelin star blow for chef

A RESTAURANT boss has vowed to bounce back after his plush venue lost its prestigious Michelin star for the first time in more than 20 years. Read's of Faversham lost out but there was good news for a restaurant run by celebrity chef Richard Phillips, who won his star back. **PAGE 3**

TRANSPORT

Toll prices go up once more

MOTORISTS will see the cost of using the tolls for the Dartford Crossing rise this weekend - and they'll go up again in 2014. Meanwhile, a consultation has got under way into plans to use the hard shoulder and have variable speed limits on the Kent stretch of the M25 motorway. **PAGE 5**

CAMPAIGN

Conference in airport debate

THE row over controversial plans to build a multi-billion pound airport in the Thames Estuary flew into the Labour Party Conference in Manchester this week. Local party representatives put forward urgent motions strongly opposing the plans. For the all the latest see inside. **PAGE 6**

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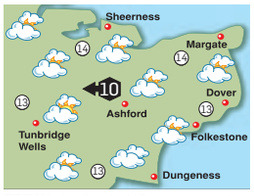

TODAY: A chilly start. Sunny spells later. Gentle easterly winds. Max temp 12-15C (54-59F). **TONIGHT:** Cloudy. Heavy rain later. Min temp 10-13C (50-55F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	03.25	5.8	15.38	5.6
Margate	04.23	4.2	17.00	4.2
St Mary's	09.18	4.6	21.45	4.4

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 18C	Min 14C
Tuesday	Max 18C	Min 11C
Wednesday	Max 16C	Min 10C
Thursday	Max 16C	Min 9C
Friday	Max 15C	Min 8C
Saturday	Max 13C	Min 7C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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SOCIAL SERVICES

Concern as children in care on the rise, while funding is cut

Continued from front page

biggest year-on-year increase was seen in 2010-11, with more than one child taken into care every week.

Medway's director for children and adult services, Barbara Peacock, said the authority was working to address the rise and had achieved a drop in the past six months.

"One of the things we are putting in place is an outreach team focused on supporting families to try and prevent a need for children to be taken into care whenever it is safe for this to happen," she said. "Nationally and locally, the historic rise seen over this three-year period is due to a combination of things and Medway aims to ensure only young people who really need to become looked-after enter the formal system.

"It's my firm belief that, where it is right and safe to do so, we should support families so their children can remain with them.

"However, each case is different and we make sure we look closely at every one to see if we can, over a period of time, return them to their families if safe, or place them with long-term loving adoptive families if it is not, as we do not wish to see children languish in care when there is a suitable alternative."

A KCC spokeswoman said: "Dealing with the increasing numbers of children coming in to care was a higher priority than moving children back out of care and so children were staying in care for longer, further increasing the figures.

"The actual numbers is less important than making sure the right children are in care for the right length of time.

Investing in good preventative and reintegration services which support children in their families is the key and this is expected to reduce the number in care.

"However, forthcoming changes in the law mean all children in custody will also start being classified as in care.

"Additionally, all 16 and 17-year-olds who become homeless and are provided with accommodation are also now recorded as children in care. This may further increase future numbers."

Social care expert Mark Kerr, a researcher and lecturer in social policy at the University of Kent, said understanding the looked-after children situation required "drilling down" into data, including where the rises are seen, for example which age range, and other figures, such as adoption levels.

"Even then it will be difficult to identify a single factor that explains the rise in children coming into care," he said.

"It is logical to accept the tragic death of Peter Connolly (Baby P) probably reduced the threshold needed to be met before a child was removed, but there are other considerations.

"The economic climate will have brought additional pressure to family environments alongside the cuts in preventative services, this will inevitably mean – for some – early intervention and support was not available and crisis point was reached.

"Whatever the explanation, what is of more concern is that this rise is happening alongside significant reductions in funding and no clear government strategy for the care system as a whole."

He added: "To remove a child from a family is one of the most dramatic decisions a local authority can take and with that comes a responsibility to provide interventions."

BUSINESS

KCC misses targets for paying bills

By Marijke Cox
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NEARLY 3,000 overdue bills are waiting for payment at Kent County Council – potentially putting businesses at risk of closure by choking much-needed cash flow.

Lib Dem leader Trudy Dean uncovered figures showing a staggering number of bills from businesses providing services to the council had not been paid within the 20-day deadline set by County Hall.

They showed that in April there remained some 2,846 unpaid bills that had missed the payment target, and that four months later this had risen by almost 100 to 2,935.

Cllr Dean said it was unfair on businesses to have to wait for payment, particularly in austere times.

"For businesses cash flow is crucial and KCC contracts are often quite a lot of money," she said. "We want to see small firms getting business with KCC, but if KCC doesn't pay bills on time these firms will be put off.

"If KCC is serious about supporting Kent businesses then the best thing it can do is pay its bills on time."

SHOCK: Lib Dem Cllr Trudy Dean says nearly 3,000 KCC bills are overdue for payment

DISAPPOINTED: From left, Chamber of Commerce's Jo James and Cllr John Simmonds

Chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Jo James said: "At the start of the recession in 2008, KCC launched Backing Kent Business, a pledge to support county firms through 10 clearly laid out commandments.

"The top commandment was to speed up the payment of their invoice s to private business from 30 days to 20. If this has started to slip, then I am extremely disappointed. So many good businesses have ceased trading purely due to cash flow problems.

"Engaging in public sector procurement is a lengthy process for small and medium–sized enterprises (SMEs) and you would hope that if they are successful in the process and deliver a good service then the reward should be payment within the agreed terms."

Finance cabinet member at KCC, Cllr John Simmonds, admitted there had been a "slight deterioration" in speed in settling outstanding bills.

"We've looked at this and part of the problem relates to getting the invoices across from the directorates for payments," he said.

"Organisational changes have meant some delays in invoices being approved before being passed through.

"We're looking at ways of streamlining this, or using e-invoicing and perhaps centralising the system to make it quicker. We are dealing with this as it's important that companies get prompt payment."

Cllr Dean said the next figures would be released in December and she would be checking to see if there had been an improvement.

Figures for 2011-12 at Medway Council showed 7,200 bills not paid within the 30-day deadline.

A Medway spokeswoman said 83,814 of 91,014 bills were paid, amounting to 92 per cent.

"We recognise the importance of paying all of our suppliers promptly, particularly as we work with many small local businesses, and around 92 per cent of all invoices are paid within the 30-day timescale we set," she said.

"In addition, we do give businesses the option to request that they are paid sooner and often arrange faster payments for smaller firms if needed."

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FOOD AND DRINK

Stars rise and fall as Michelin guide recognises fine dining

By Joe Bill
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CELEBRITY chef Richard Phillips has won back a prestigious Michelin star for his fine-dining restaurant, but there were tears and jeers as another venue saw its star snatched away.

The Michelin Guide 2013 for Great Britain – often referred to as the Red Guide – reviews the best restaurants and presents the finest with the prestigious Michelin star – an internationally acknowledged mark of quality food and service which the leading chefs use to gauge their success.

And overall it was good news for Kent, with four restaurants securing the star for 2013.

Most notably was a return for Thackeray's, the Tunbridge Wells restaurant in the former home of 19th century poet and novelist William Makepeace Thackeray.

It made headlines in 2002 when, in its first year under the chef's ownership, it secured a star for Mr Phillips – a familiar face on TV shows such as Ready, Steady, Cook – when he was just 29.

But after three years it lost its star, only for it to be reinstated in the latest guide, which hit bookshops on Friday.

Mr Phillips, who grew up in Rainham and learned his trade at Thanet College before working with the likes of the Roux Brothers and becoming head chef for Marco Piere White in London, said he was delighted.

He explained: "Well done to my entire team – all their hard work has paid off and I'm proud of them all."

It means a remarkable turnaround for the venue which less than a year ago found itself facing a financial headache, and forced to enter what is know as a Company Voluntary Agreement (CVA) to pay creditors after experiencing cash flow problems. It can now expect to see a surge in customers keen to experience its award-winning French cuisine.

But there was heartache for Read's in Faversham which lost its star for the first time in more than two decades.

David Pitchford, Read's owner, said: "Obviously, after 20 years, it is very disappointing to lose it, but on a positive note and having talked to our customers, we are proud to have had it so long, and I don't know of many who have held a Michelin star for that length of time with the same chef."

Read's loss of the award was met with some criticism from Gordon Ramsey's former right-hand man Mark Sargeant, the owner of Rocksalt in Folkestone. He took to social networking site Twitter to say: "Sad day. Over 20 years with a Michelin star and Read's in Faversham lose theirs. I'm not going to get political but **** you Michelin."

The Sportsman at Seasalter, near Whitstable, retained its star for another year, as did The West House at Biddenden, and Apicius at Cranbrook.

However, the headlines were stolen at first by the rather farcical manner in which details of the guide leaked out.

Information began to emerge a week before the release of the book after Michelin accidentally published its findings on its website. They were visible for an hour before being removed – but not before they were spotted and widely circulated. Some have suggested it was simply a publicity stunt for Michelin to whip up interest in the guide.

Elsewhere in Swale, the Three Mariners at Oare was newly added to the Michelin Guide having been awarded the Bib Gourmand.

A Bib Gourmand recognises "good cooking at moderate prices" and has often acted as a precursor to being awarded a Michelin star in the future.

The Plough at Stalisfield Green near Faversham was also a new entry into the Michelin Guide, not winning an award this year but getting a mention as a "pleasant restaurant/pub" wth good food.

STAR: Chef Richard Phillips is celebrating Thackeray's reinstated Michelin star

NEWS IN BRIEF

Duo on kidnap charges

TWO men from Gillingham have been charged will kidnapping.

It follows an incident in Chatham Hill on September 27 when police attended reports of a man being forced into the boot of a car.

Jamal Raymon, 38, from Chaucer Road and Stephen James Bates, 31, from Balmoral Road, have both been charged with kidnap. They have been remanded in custody to appear in court on Monday.

Swaleside suspension

A PRISON worker from HMP Swaleside on Sheppey has been suspended after allegations of inappropriate behaviour towards staff were made.

The worker, who has not been named, will now be the subject of an internal investigation.

The suspension comes after the governor of the prison was placed on temporary leave in May, however no investigation followed and he has since returned to work at another location.

Flash mob surprise

SHOPPERS In Sittingbourne were stunned on Saturday when a 40-strong flash mob descended on the High Street.

The event - where a group suddenly turn up and dance in a public space, was organised by local dance teacher Sammie Searle.

Mrs Searle picked a medley of popular hits to dance to, including Maroon 5's Moves Like Jagger.

HALLOWEEN

Pumpkin shortage Halloween horror

IT'S a terrifying prospect – Halloween without pumpkins.

The appalling weather in Kent this year has proved to be a horror story for pumpkin farmers.

The ghoulish rain and cold in early summer made the countryside look more like a set from a gory movie than the Garden of England.

And only a miracle from the spirits of warm weather can save Halloween on October 31 from taking a hammering.

Growing conditions are getting better, but it looks like the improvements are too late to fully resurrect this year's harvest.

Stocks will be down, and shoppers will have to face a sinister search for their fruit and then have to choke up more money.

Crops will be slashed by around 20 per cent this year with prices up by a spooktacular 30 per cent on last Halloween.

John Harris runs Broadditch Farm at Southfleet, near Dartford. He usually produces a 20 tonne crop with up to 8,000 fruits of various sizes which are then sold for about 70p a kilo.

Mr Harris said: "The sun usually ripens the pumpkins ready for October. We have had such wet and cloudy weather, that hasn't happened.

"That means we are struggling a little this year. I expect we will be down about 10 per cent, perhaps a little more. We will be trying to keep our prices more or less at last year's level."

Britain's biggest supplier in Lincolnshire reports 40 per cent of its two million pumpkin crop is still green, with the harvest 10 days behind schedule.

FARMER: John Harris' pumpkin crop is down

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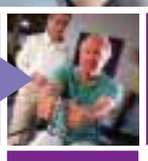

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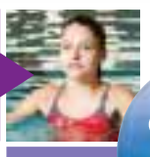

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CRIME

Father dies without seeing justice for his murdered daughter

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE funeral of the father of unsolved murder victim Claire Tiltman has taken place.

The last member of the tragic family passed away last month without ever knowing who savagely knifed to death his beloved teenage daughter almost 20 years ago.

The Tiltman family had been shrouded in grief since 1993, when the 16-year-old was ambushed in an alley near her home in Greenhithe on the way to see a friend.

The schoolgirl was stabbed more than 40 times, yet managed to crawl several yards back towards her home before finally succumbing to the terrible wounds.

Her devastated parents, Cliff and Lin, were confident the police would trace her killer. After several leads developed their hopes slowly but surely ebbed away, draining the life-force from the couple.

The pair, particularly Cliff, were always willing to make repeated appeals for more information to trace Claire's killer. She died just four days after her birthday.

But Lin became ill, and died aged 56 in 2008. Despite the sadness of losing his wife and only child, Cliff still remained determined Claire's killer would be caught.

Last month, after moving in to a nursing home, Cliff also died, having never seen justice for Claire, who was a pupil at Dartford Grammar School for Girls. His funeral was on Tuesday at Eltham Crematorium.

Before he died, he said it would "mean everything" to him if the police secured a breakthrough in the investigation, which has inevitably gone cold over the last two decades, despite more modern analysis procedures having become available.

The 62-year-old said earlier this year: "It's been a long time but I've never given up hope and never will. I can't begin to put into words how this has affected our family. She would have been 35 now. I miss her to bits.

"Claire has gone. Her mum has gone. There is now only me. I try to stay strong but will still hide and cry my eyes out for an hour."

A name was scribbled on a note and left next to Claire's memorial claiming the man was the killer, but police later ruled him out. Serving prisoners jailed for other offences were named by others, but once more all leads proved fruitless.

Police have always said they believe the killer was probably a local person.

The attack happened just off the busy A226 London Road on January 18, 1993, between 6-6.30pm, when there were many road and rail commuters returning home from work.

TRAGEDY: Cliff Tiltman (left) died without seeing justice for his murdered daughter Claire (above)

Det Chief Insp Rob Vinson from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said: "A good man went to his grave without ever seeing justice being served for the murder of his only daughter. This isn't the end of our investigation; we have always maintained that someone has information about this murder and we will continue to investigate it.

"I hope the sad news of Cliff's passing might prompt someone to finally come forward with the key piece of information we need to identify Claire's killer and help us bring this case to a successful conclusion."

Anyone with information can call police on 01634 884010, or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

TRANSPORT

Crossing tolls rise this weekend, but M25 plans aim to cut jams

THIS weekend drivers using the Dartford Crossing will be forced to pay even more to use the tunnel or bridge.

From Sunday, motorists will see charges rise from £1.50 to £2 for a car, from £2 to £2.50 for lorries, and £3.70 to £5 for heavy goods vehicles.

Further increases will be implemented in 2014.

The Government says the controversial move will help pay for free-flowing tolls.

But the introduction of this system, similar to London's electronic congestion charging and due to be brought in this year, has been pushed back until 2014.

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson, Kent County Council, and Dartford Borough Council, have raised concerns over the delay, warning that severe congestion at the crossing costs the UK economy £40 million every year through disrupted business.

Ironically, the new charges come ahead of the 10th anniversary of when the bill for the crossing's construction was paid off.

When the first tunnel was built in 1969, the then-Government promised to scrap tolls when enough money had been raised to pay off the costs, which was thought to be in 2003. But this has never happened under either the Labour government or Coalition, and drivers still pay.

Tory backbencher Mr Johnson has been pushing for the charges to be abolished. He said: "I remain opposed to the charge increase and I think the tolls should have been scrapped a long time ago."

The Government is currently looking at long-term solutions to tackle problems at Dartford, including the development of a third Thames crossing.

Meanwhile, views are being sought on plans to bring in variable speed limits on the M25 in Kent and create an extra lane using the hard shoulder. If given the green light, the scheme would run between junction five at Sevenoaks and junction seven, for the M23 in Surrey.

Highways Agency draft plans involve making the hard shoulder available to drivers as a fourth lane and a variable speed limit controlling traffic flows during peak congestion or after a crash.

A six-week consultation, finishing on November 5, has been launched seeking the public's views.

Go to www.highways.gov.uk/consultations/m25-managed-motorways-consultation/ to comment on the plans.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Primary's new head

DEANWOOD Primary School in Parkwood, Gillingham, has confirmed David Bignell will take over as head teacher in January.

He is currently head at Hempstead Junior School.

Chairman of governors, David Giles, said: "We are delighted by David's appointment and know he is just the person to lead the team to get Deanwood recognised as an outstanding school."

A life in showbusiness

AN INSIGHT into 40 years of showbusiness will be given this week as a member of the controversial BBC show the Black and White Minstrels gives a talk in Faversham.

Bob Parvin will deliver the talk at the Fleur de Lis Hall in Gatefield Lane on Wednesday.

It is organised by the Faversham branch of the Association of Men of Kent & Kentish Men. Non-members are welcome to attend for a cost of £1. The event starts at 8pm.

Care plans approved

MEDWAY Council has approved plans to usher in a new way of working with care providers

The move, which was given a trial run, has delivered the council £1.9million in savings by management and adult social care teams working together to recommission homecare services.

The new arrangement will be reviewed every six months.

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CAMPAIGN

Estuary airport battle taken to party conference

By Marijke Cox
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LABOUR members from Medway have taken the fight against a Thames estuary airport to their party conference this week.

Urgent motions on the issue were put forward by representatives from the three Medway constituencies, strongly opposing any proposal for a hub airport in north Kent.

Speaking from the conference, former Labour MP for Gillingham and Rainham, Paul Clark, said a Thames Estuary airport was "nonsensical" and he welcomed the recently launched independent aviation commission, chaired by Sir Howard Davies.

But he stressed the overwhelming feeling from delegates was that the commission's work should conclude before the next general election. Instead, new transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin said it would not be presented until after 2015.

Mr Clark, who spoke at conference fringe events on the subject, said: "Ed Balls said China is now planning 70 new airports; other countries are moving ahead quickly. We need to see this report on the options and a way forward before the next general election.

"When voters go to the ballot box they will know where political parties stand on aviation expansion.

"People know we need a long-term plan for air capacity. It's cowardly that the findings of the report are not being presented until after 2015. From a party point of view, everyone looks at how to win votes, but this delay is unfair on people living in north Kent, in Essex and in Heathrow."

Mr Clark admitted something needed to be done to solve the long-term aviation needs of the country, saying: "All the options need to be reported, before the next general election."

Medway Labour group leader, Cllr Vince Maple, also spoke at a conference fringe event on the Future of UK Aviation, where he raised concerns about the impact of a Thames estuary airport and the potential economic damage that would result if Heathrow was forced to close to make way for such a development.

Two separate designs have been drawn up for an airport in the estuary: one by architect Lord Foster setting out a plan for a multi-billion pound transport hub on the Isle of Grain, including a four-runway airport and connecting rail links; and another, by designers Gensler, for a floating airport with as many as six runways tethered to the seabed.

Conservative party members in north Kent and the Labour Party are fighting against any such plans.

Tory MP for Rochester and Strood Mark Reckless met with David Cameron earlier this year to explain his opposition to a Thames Estuary airport.

PROPOSAL: One of the ideas for in the Thames Estuary is the Gensler floating airport

No Estuary Airport

What are your views on the proposals? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject line. Sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk

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POLITICS

Justice secretary says new elected police boss must fight for county – not follow party leaders

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

NEW justice secretary Chris Grayling has denied claims that a party political Police and Crime Commissioner would answer to the party rather than the people of Kent.

The senior Tory, who was sworn in as the new Lord Chancellor this week, stressed that the introduction of the new PCC role was aimed at cutting bureaucracy and devolving responsibility away from central government.

He was responding to arguments made by independent candidates, including Ann Barnes, that politics should be kept out of policing and away from the upcoming PCC role.

Speaking to this newspaper during a visit to Kent, he said he was confident Conservative hopeful Craig Mackinlay, a Medway councillor who he is backing in the race, would do what was best for the county should he be elected.

"There's a long tradition of local government making their own decisions and rightly they should. It would be the same for the PCC," he said.

"I don't think it's right to say a Conservative would follow the party instead of fighting for Kent. (With a Conservative PCC) we're all part of the same team. They would be more likely to be able to speak to central government about an issue.

"This is all about devolving responsibility away from the centre; there will be less bureaucracy and more accountability, people will know who to turn to.

"With police authorities, no-one knew what they were. This is a much better way." He added: "Local council independents have an image of not being party political, but this is an illusion."

Following an election on November 15, the PCC will replace the Kent Police Authority, which currently holds Kent Police to account. They officially take over on November 22 when KPA is dissolved.

The successful candidate will have the power to hire and fire the chief constable, set the police budget, write and publish a police and crime plan, and commission services.

They will hold the force to account. The PCC will be paid £85,000, irrespective of days worked, and will decide how policing money is spent.

Mr Grayling said he was optimistic about Mr Mackinlay's campaign. "This is a county that has always been traditionally Conservative," he said. "But of course you can't take anything for granted. All the candidates will be fronting vigorous campaigns."

Asked whether a PCC would be able to set long-term strategies, despite only being elected for a four-year term, Mr Grayling said this would be possible and pointed to central and local Governments as examples.

He added: "The PCC will take things away from the centre and will have the power to oversee things. What we don't expect to happen is the PCC trying to interfere in operational policing which is run by the chief constable."

The list of prospective candidates include Ashford councillor Harriet Yeo (Labour), Steven Uncles (English Democrats), Piers Wauchope (Ukip), John Botting (National Liberal) and independent hopefuls Ann Barnes, Dai Liyanage, Ken Little, Fran Croucher, and Fergus Wilson. Nomination papers are due on October 19.

LORD CHANCELLOR CHRIS GRAYLING GIVES HIS OPINION ON...

UKIP: "Ukip is like any other party, but if people vote for Ukip it gives Labour a better chance of winning [Tory Craig Mackinlay will go up against Ukip's Piers Wauchope who defeated Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Tory leader Bob Atwood]. Ukip's platform is all about the EU, not about policing."

JAILS: "The three prisoners [who absconded while on community release] from Blantyre open prison in Goudhurst earlier this year is something I'm concerned about. It's a really difficult balance to find. If we don't have a process in place we can't prepare prisoners for life outside prison, but we need to think of victims." He added: "Rehabilitation is in all of our interests as it helps to reduce re-offending."

KoS SURVEY: "I think Craig Mackinlay's campaign is going well so far. [In July, KoS carried out a survey to see if people recognised the PCC candidates – 92 per cent said 'no'] He's building a profile and I think this will help more people recognise him. But it's always a battle for politicians to get their faces known."

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CRIME

Survey urges people to get involved in a bid to tackle rise in disability hate crime

SPEAK UP: It is thought that a large number of hate crimes go unreported and so this research aims to help combat the problem

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

A PUSH to crackdown on disability hate crimes has been launched, with initial findings already shedding light on some disturbing cases of victimisation.

A charity based in Maidstone is now encouraging people with autism and learning disabilities across Medway to share their experiences of hate crime in a bid to tackle the problem.

The Living in Fear project is spearheaded by mental healty charity the MCCH Society, which also has services across Kent, including Sittingbourne.

The initiative is being operated with the support of Kent Police, the Big Lottery Fund, Autism London and the Tizard Centre at the University of Kent – an academic group specialising in learning difficulties.

If there is a good response, it will be rolled out across the county and follows a survey of police officers.

It is hoped the findings will allow people to share their experience and break down barriers when reporting crime.

The results will help researchers find out how many people have experienced victimisation and if they reported their issue, as well as the impact it had on their lives.

Researchers say they would also like to hear from people who have not been victims. Drop-in sessions will be taking place across Medway for the surveys to be filled in.

The results of the research may help people like Allan, who lives in Medway and has Asperger's syndrome – a type of autism.

He told researchers he was forced to move after he was threatened and called names by neighbours. Allan reported the issue to the police and landlord, who took action.

He said: "One officer who came to see me was very understanding, he told me he has a son with autism and I should contact him if I had problems again. This research will help make sure that wherever they live, anybody who has autism and learning disabilities can get the right support from the police if they are threatened."

Another victim of hate crime is Kathy, who has learning disabilities. She has twice enrolled on education courses but dropped out when she was harassed.

She said: "I loved being with friends and learning. But some people stopped me sitting down on the bus to college and laughed at me. One day I got off the bus early to get away from them and had to walk a long way home. I was scared.

"At college, students swung on the trees outside the classrooms and pulled monkey faces at me and my friends through the window. I decided not to go back.

"I hope lots of people with learning disabilities will do the survey so the police and social services will know what needs to be done so that anybody who wants to be out and about in the community can do that, without feeling scared."

Colin Guest, MCCH manager, who is coordinating the research, said: "Many people with learning disabilities and autism enjoy active and fulfilling lives, but others have told us of bad experiences which prevent them from enjoying life in their community."

The Home Office and the Department of Health say disability hate crime is hugely under-reported and that many people with learning disabilities face daily harassment.

DCI Andrew Pritchard, of Kent Police and who is involved in the project, said: "Together we hope to raise awareness of the issue of hate crime towards people with learning disabilities and get a better understanding of what we can do to improve the service of reporting crime for people with social or communication difficulties."

To find out more about the research or how to take part in the confidential survey contact Colin Guest by emailing c.guest@mcch.org.uk or call him on 07584 311943.

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Picture: RICHARD BRYANT

Turner Contemporary in Margate

Picture: CHRISTOPHER KEMP

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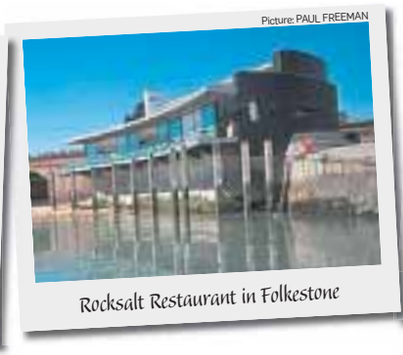
Picture: PAUL FREEMAN

Rocksalt Restaurant in Folkestone

East Wing of Maidstone Museum

DESIGN

Architectural excellence shortlisted for awards

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AFTER a record-breaking 94 entries to this year's building design awards, the shortlisted developments have been named and includes high-tech houses, an art gallery, and restaurants.

The Kent Design and Development Awards celebrate the best designs in the county and are organised and sponsored by DHA Planning, Kent County Council, and Ward Homes.

Its remit is to showcase the best buildings and developments across Kent over the past two years.

It will recognise structures that highlight design excellence within five categories: residential; commercial, industrial and retail; civil and infrastructure; public buildings; and environmental performance. An overall winner will be chosen on the night of the ceremony by the audience.

A panel of judges from industry bodies including the Royal Institute of British Architects and Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors worked their way through the entries to come up with the list of possible winners and will now visit the sites.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "Good design and quality developments are essential if we are to continue to maximise on the attractiveness and uniqueness of Kent.

"If you look back at previous years, the recipients were true exemplars of excellent design and development – something we should be extremely proud of. We want to celebrate the first-rate work of developers, architects and professional teams working in Kent, and encourage and promote good practices. That is exactly what these awards aim to do."

The winners will be announced at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, on November 1.

KENT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT AWARDS SHORTLIST

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (Community): Turner Contemporary, Margate; Marlow Theatre, Canterbury; Hawkinge Football Pavilion; Maidstone Museum East Wing; No 1 Smithery, Chatham; The City Gaol Café and Westgate Towers Museum Entrance, Canterbury.
PUBLIC BUILDINGS (Education): Cornwallis Academy, Maidstone; Grange Park School, Tonbridge and Malling; New Line Learning Academies, Maidstone; and Sevenoaks School Performing Arts Centre.
RESIDENTIAL (Major): Halstead Place, Sevenoaks; Hythe Imperial, Shepway; and Rosemary Gardens, Maidstone.
RESIDENTIAL (Minor): 2-4 South Street, Folkestone; Hill House, Maidstone; Monks Horton, Shepway; and Orchid Court, Campion Close, Chatham.
CIVILS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Dover Esplanade; and Folkestone Harbour Fountains.
COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND RETAIL: Northdown 2, Ashford; Rocksalt Restaurant, Folkestone; and the Marquis Hotel and Restaurant, Dover.
ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE: Hadlow College Rural Regeneration Centre, Tonbridge; Hill House, Maidstone; St Mary the Virgin, Ashford; and Walderslade Primary, Chatham.

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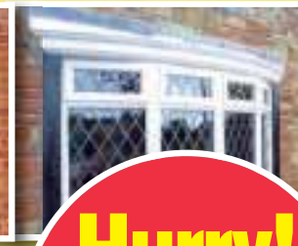

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FOOD

Taste of Kent Awards want your 'food and drink' heroes

PUBLIC voting is now open in the ninth Taste of Kent food and drink awards.

The Produced in Kent competition is expected to receive more than 10,000 online votes at www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk before the poll closes on January 2, 2013.

The Taste of Kent Awards 2013 recognise the county's 'food and drink heroes' and provide the public with an opportunity to vote for their favourite food and drink producers, retailers, restaurants, dining pubs, and farmers' markets.

Following the consumer vote, three finalists in each category will go forward to be judged by mystery shoppers and diners, and an expert panel.

Stephanie Durling of Produced in Kent said: "The awards are seen as a benchmark of food and drink excellence in our county.

"For the outstanding companies that win an award, it is an acknowledgement of their status as the county's 'food and drink heroes' and a stamp of approval from Kent consumers. This is the public's golden opportunity to vote for the food and drink producers with that 'X' factor.

"So no matter who tickles your taste buds, or floats your culinary boat, do make sure you add your votes for your favourite food and drink producers and the most outstanding dining pubs, restaurants, and farmers' markets in Kent."

Two awards introduced last year will return fpr 2013. The Kent Food, Farming and Landscape Award, which has small farm and large farm categories, is a stand-alone section giving farmers the opportunity to enter their farms and businesses directly into the competition on mail@kentdowns.org.uk.

And the Produced in Kent Special Award, designed to recognise the contribution of an individual or business to the food and drink industry, returns for a second year, too.

The self-nominating awards will again give food and drink producers the opportunity to submit their products to an expert judging panel.

See full details and an application form at www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk.

In addition to the online voting, you can pick up a voting form at farmers' markets.

Final winners will be revealed at a glittering awards dinner on Friday, March 8, 2013 at the Merecure Great Danes Hotel, Hollingbourne.

The overall sponsor is Vertex Law, and there is also support from Barclays Bank, Biddenden Vineyards, Chapel Down Winery, Hadlow College, Kent Downs and High Weald AONB, Kent County Council, Kent Life magazine, kff (Kent Frozen Foods), NFU Mutual, Opies, sff (Stephen's Fresh Foods), Wilkins Kennedy, Shepherd Neame, and Visit Kent. Archant KOS Media is providing media backing.

VOTING CATEGORIES FOR THIS YEAR'S AWARDS

1) Kent Butcher or Meat Producer of the Year
2) Best Kentish Beer
3) Best Kentish Wine
4) Best Kentish Cider or Perry
5) Best Kent Juice Producer
6) Kent Local Food Retailer of the Year
7) Kent Fishmonger of the Year
8) Best Kent Food Product of the Year
9) Kent Food Product Category Awards (5 classes in this category)
10) Kent Artisan Food Producer of the Year
11) Kent Restaurant of the Year
12) Kent Dining Pub of the Year
13) Kent Farmers' Market of the Year
14) Produced in Kent Award
15) Kent Downs and High Weald AONB Kent Food, Farming and Landscape Award

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Monday, 15 October, 10am to 12noon
UK Paper Leisure Club, Avenue of Remembrance,
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You can sign up to become a member and also take part in our public consultation, which runs until Monday, 22 October.

Sign up at **www.kentcht.nhs.uk** or phone **01622 211970**.

News

CRIME

Car key burglars are locked up for more than 20 years

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A GANG who targeted homes across Swale, Medway and Maidstone, breaking in to pinch the keys to the expensive cars parked outside, has been locked up.

Six men were sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court for their part in the crime spree, which stretched from September 2011 to January 2012. In total, police investigated around 48 offences.

Danny Stevenson, 27, of Bettescombe Road, Gillingham, and Adam Green, 24, of Hards Town, Chatham, were each sentenced to six years imprisonment.

Jamie Rustage, 21, of Beatty Avenue, Gillingham, and Frank Harris, 19, of Swift Crescent, Chatham, were both sentenced to four years in jail.

James Clark, 21, of Hards Town, Chatham, was sentenced to three years and four months behind bars, and Charlie Bushell, 21, of Kingston Crescent, Chatham, received 14 months imprisonment.

CRIMINAL DRESS: Posing on film in gear used during raids

Stevenson, Green, Rustage, Harris and Clark all admitted the offence of conspiracy to commit burglary, and Bushell admitted one count of attempted burglary at a previous court appearance.

The first offence took place in the early hours of September 15, when a black Honda CR-V valued at around £20,000 was stolen from the driveway of a house in Harvesters Close, Rainham.

On the same evening a Mercedes-Benz worth £18,000 was taken from the drive of a house in Emsworth Grove, Maidstone, after they broke into a house while the occupants slept upstairs. Another offence took place in Forge Lane, Upchurch, on October 9 when a silver Mercedes-Benz valued at £23,000 was stolen.

The final offence was reported to have taken place on January 7 at a house in Chafes Lane, Upchurch. In this instance an intruder to the property made off empty handed after being challenged by an occupant.

An image was recovered from Stevenson's phone which was shown in court and is believed to represent how the offenders appeared when breaking into victims' premises.

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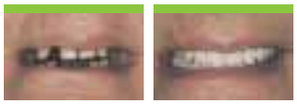

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News

HERITAGE

FANS RESTORE HISTORIC BUS

A GROUP of enthusiasts are celebrating after successfully completing the restoration of an engine to power a restored 1939 double-decker bus.

The Friends of Chatham Traction is devoted to the Chatham & District Traction Company, which ran bus services over the former tram routes in the Medway towns from 1930 to 1955.

The restored engine is for the last remaining bus – the GKE 68.

Work on the historic engine, undertaken at Tivoli Manufacturing, Chartham, has been supported by a £4,500 community grant from the Rochester Bridge Trust.

The Friends of Chatham Traction are intending to restore the bus to full working order and celebrate the role of the bus company as a key transport provider.

The bus, one of 37 similar vehicles, spent its entire service life working from a Luton depot. It was withdrawn from service in 1955.

OPENING

Football star helps open builders' merchant

FORMER Arsenal and England footballer Ray Parlour came to Gillingham this week to officially open a new builders' merchant.

The midfielder, a first team regular at Arsenal and part of the double-winning team of 2002, joined the team at Gibbs & Dandy as they unveiled their outlet on the site of the former Build Center on Crusader Close in Gillingham.

He met local tradesmen, took part in a football shoot-out, and also dished out prizes.

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Sawn tan 47 x 225	~~£3.53~~ £2.84
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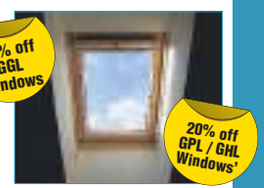

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HEALTH

Mothers-to-be are urged to get vaccination against deadly whooping cough outbreak

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A SERIES of baby deaths caused by an outbreak of the contagious whooping cough disease has sparked a warning to expectant mothers to get vaccinated.

Nine babies in England died in the first eight months of this year and there were 302 cases of the disease – a bacterial infection of the lungs and airways – in children under three months.

In the South East, there were 972 cases overall during the same period, mainly in teenagers and young adults, compared to 88 in 2011 and 40 in 2010.

The surge in cases has prompted the Department of Health to bring in a temporary vaccination programme for expectant mothers.

Health chiefs in Kent are now urging women who are 28 weeks pregnant or more to get themselves vaccinated.

Consultant in public health medicine for NHS Kent and Medway, Dr Faiza Khan, said whooping cough is highly contagious and newborns are particularly vulnerable.

"Babies cannot be immunised against whooping cough until they are two months old," she said.

"By having the vaccination while they are pregnant, women can pass on immunity that will protect their child from the day they are born until they are old enough to start being immunised themselves."

New mothers who have not been vaccinated and whose babies haven't yet had the jab are also being offered the vaccine to reduce the risk of passing the disease on.

Dr Khan said: "The vaccination is being offered by GP practices and I urge women who are at least six months pregnant to contact their practice and find out when they can have their jab."

This latest outbreak of whooping cough, which is caused by a bacteria infecting the lining of airways and affects all ages, has mainly hit teenagers and young adults, but high numbers have been seen in young babies this year.

Dr Alan Beattie, community paediatrician at Medway NHS Foundation Trust, said: "In the mid-1970s, uptake of the vaccine in Kent was approximately 25 per cent, and in 1982 it was 60 per cent so there is a high chance that pregnant women in their 30s have not been vaccinated."

The decision to introduce the temporary jab programme was made after the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation – the Government's independent vaccine experts – looked at the high number of cases.

PREVENTION: Mums-to-be should visit their GP

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Clare Balding strolls in

SPORTS presenter Clare Balding was in Rainham Marshes this week, recording the latest episode in her BBC Radio 4 series, Ramblings.

The hugely popular star, a key figure on the BBC's Olympic coverage this summer, joined actor Sam West, son of Prunella Scales and Timothy West, who took her on a trail of some of his favourite walks around the low-lying ancient grazing land on the reserve.

Talk on the V2 rocket

A DISCUSSION on the V2 rockets takes place at Brompton next month, after the site took recent delivery of one of the deadly war-time devices which the Nazis used to rain down terror on the south east.

Author Murray Barber will give a talk on the rockets and discuss his new book, Hitler's Rocket Soldiers, about the men who fired the devices at Britain. It takes place at 7pm on November 30 at the Royal Engineers Museum.

College open day joy

SITTINGBOURNE Community College hailed its open evening this week as a big success, with hundreds of parents and pupils taking the chance to look at the facilities on offer.

Alan Barham, executive headteacher, said: "The amount of interest shown from prospective students and their parents was incredible and the comments and feedback we received were all very positive."

TOURISM

Explorers encouraged to discover Britain with a walk through history

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

FAVERSHAM has been selected by the Royal Geographical Society as one of the best places to explore in the UK.

The society says it has some of the most interesting and diverse geography and features the town as part of a major new project launched this week.

Discovering Britain aims to explain the stories behind the UK's built and national landscapes through a series of selfled walks.

The walk – called Boats, Bangs, Bricks and Beer – looks at Faversham's justifiable claim to be 'the town that built Britain', focusing on how early settlers utilised the navigable creek to develop industry and trade.

Faversham Creek was perfectly placed with easy access to Europe and London close by, encouraging industries like boat building, brewing, brickmaking and even gunpowder manufacturing.

The four-mile, family-friendly walk goes from the station, through the town centre, to its post-industrial edge and Kent marshes, immortalised in Dickens' Great Expectations.

Director of the Royal Geographical Society, Dr Rita Gardner, said: "Faversham boasts one of the best-preserved medieval streets in England, the country's oldest brewery and played a big role in helping win the Battle of Trafalgar.

"This walk gives you a geographical perspective on the changing fortunes of the town's industries and connections with the wider world.

"We hope people from across the UK will explore the fabulously diverse geography that is on all our doorsteps. Faversham has this in abundance."

The only other Kent walk which forms part of the project is one through the Darent Valley, highlighting how agriculture has been influenced by the slopes, rivers and rocks.

The Royal Geographical Society is an educational charity and the learned society and professional body for geography and geographers.

Founded in 1830, it has had a long and distinguished history in scientific research and exploration and in sharing new knowledge with a range of audiences. Today it supports research, education, expeditions and fieldwork, public enjoyment of geography and transfer of knowledge to policy.

See www.discoveringbritain.org to find out more about the project and to download a map of the Faversham walk.

Picture: RICHARD DREW/FAVERSHAM 365

HISTORIC IMPORTANCE: Faversham Creek is behind the claim 'the town that built Britain'

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

SHIPSHAPE: Commercial fishing was a mainstay of the Thanet economy during its 19th century heyday

Hooked on past glories of isle's fishing industry

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOR CENTURIES Kent has been famous for its fishing boats, and until recently Thanet had been the centre of the industry.

Now a local author and former maritime museum curator has captured the rise and fall of the fishing fleets that were once commonplace on the waters around Britain.

Michael Hunt's career has always been land-based, but he considers himself a decent enough sailor who missed out on a life at sea.

After being the curator of the Ramsgate Maritime Museum he took to writing about his passion, and has just published A History of the Ramsgate Fishing Industry.

It describes a way of life that was once a mainstay of Thanet's community and economy. A previous work by the historian – A History of Ramsgate Harbour – was re-published last year.

Mr Hunt wanted to create a work concentrated on what was once Kent's glory at sea.

The result is a detailed, but highly readable description of a commercial sea fishery.

He said it traces the local industry's earliest moments, through its 19th century heyday, to the still-important fishery of today, albeit far smaller than it once was.

Mr Hunt said the book encompasses 1,000 years of Thanet men and women's engagement with the sea on board herring boats and sailing trawlers. Even the largely forgotten involvement with the Icelandic cod fishery is covered.

The book follows the migration of fishing families and their craft around the coast of Britain, their involvement in the political and economic squabbles of medieval monarchs, and all against a backdrop of the tragedy and heroism endemic to this most dangerous of trades.

He said: "I have always had a passion for sailing and fishing, although my working life has always been land-based.

"I like boats, but I am not a seaman. It is a fascinating business, and this book traces Kent's connections to as far back as I could go. The subject has not been covered properly before."

Areas examined in the book include the development of fishing boats and activities of their crews in peace and war; the rivalries between local and Continental fishermen; and the frequent tragedies of losses through shipwreck, storm or even enemy action during wartime.

Mr Hunt said: "The book has dozens of black and white illustrations along with copious source notes so readers can explore the subject further themselves."

■ **A History of the Ramsgate Fishing Industry is available, price £7.99, from Michael's Bookshop, 72 King Street, Ramsgate, CT11 8NY, 01843 589500; or online from www.Michaels-Bookshop.com.**

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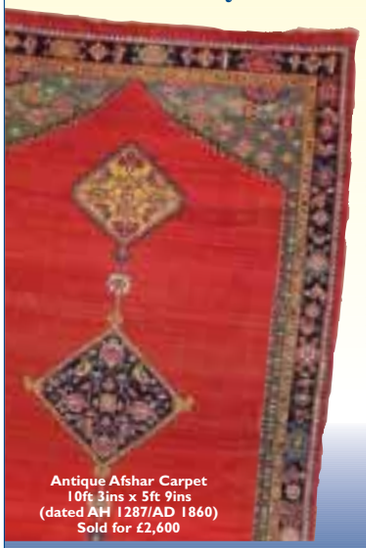

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OPINION

Delivering food to our plates

Meurig Raymond of the NFU argues that the Port of Dover is the best solution for the export of live farm animals to the Continent

RECENT events at the Port of Ramsgate have brought the practice of transporting farm animals, especially to mainland Europe, to the forefront of many people's minds.

I want to state from the outset that the events of that day must be thoroughly investigated. We need to know the part that everyone at the port played in the events which lead to the slaughter of those sheep at the dockside.

We must know what went wrong, what can be learnt from the mistakes made and whether decisions were taken under pressure from animal welfare organisations which departed from agreed contingency plans, escalated the situation, and were not ultimately in the best interests of the animals.

These events have rightly prompted people to ask questions about the wider issue of the movement of animals and it is a topic that the NFU has been engaged with in Europe for many years.

I fully appreciate that to the man on the street there seems little need to transport farm animals, especially over long distances. The Single Market allows people and businesses to move and trade freely across the EU. Moving these animals is an essential part of delivering food to our plates and it is done using vehicles specially designed to protect the animals.

Almost all farm animals across the EU are transported at some stage during their lives from field to field, farm to farm, to the market, or to the abattoir. The important factor is these animals are transported under the right conditions in order that they arrive at their destination fit and healthy.

As well as a moral responsibility to look after animals in our care, livestock are also valuable. It is in no-one's interest to transport them in a way that results in stressed, injured or ill animals and all journeys, especially over long distances, are subject to comprehensive EU regulations designed to safeguard welfare.

Vehicles used for such journeys must be approved by the authorities, drivers must pass tests to transport animals on longer journeys, and all animals travelling out of Britain must be approved by a vet before travel.

In addition, the journey plans must be approved by the Government, including rest stops for the animals and contingencies must be in place to deal with any unforeseen circumstances.

The NFU has been clear that we believe anyone transporting animals has a duty to use the shortest route to their destination. For transport to mainland Europe, this is Dover and longer term we believe animal welfare would be best served by using this port for the majority of animal movements, as is currently the case for milking animals and those destined for breeding purposes.

Anyone moving animals has a duty to use the shortest route

We are committed to working to improve animal welfare during transport for all operations. This must be focused on the conditions of transport and the rigorous enforcement of the regulations across the EU, rather than arbitrary limits on time, or the fact that an animal is travelling over water or over a national border.

The NFU will continue to work closely with government agencies to safeguard animal welfare in these operations, but any changes to legislation must be based on sound scientific studies and made at an EU level to keep a level playing field throughout Europe for our farming businesses.

■ **Meurig Raymond is deputy president of the National Farmers' Union**

KOS COMMENT

College crisis a threat to more than just jobs

THIS week Labour leader Ed Miliband spoke at his party's conference, vowing to drive up standards in apprenticeships and vocational courses so they were no longer seen as "second best" to university.

And so it came with disappointment that one the county's colleges, which runs a host of vocational courses, is facing an uncertain future.

Quite rightly there are fears of hundreds of jobs losses. But perhaps more worrying is the axe that hangs over further education provision at the college, which caters for more than 9,000 students. Vocational subjects play a big part in Kent's educational make-up, so to put this at risk could threaten the futures of countless young people.

Celebrity gone too far?

THE exposé about the late Jimmy Savile has done more than shock the nation; it has raised the question of why so many people appeared prepared to turn a blind eye to accusations about him for years.

Savile can't answer to anyone now, but people will be asking why these claims lay hidden for so long.

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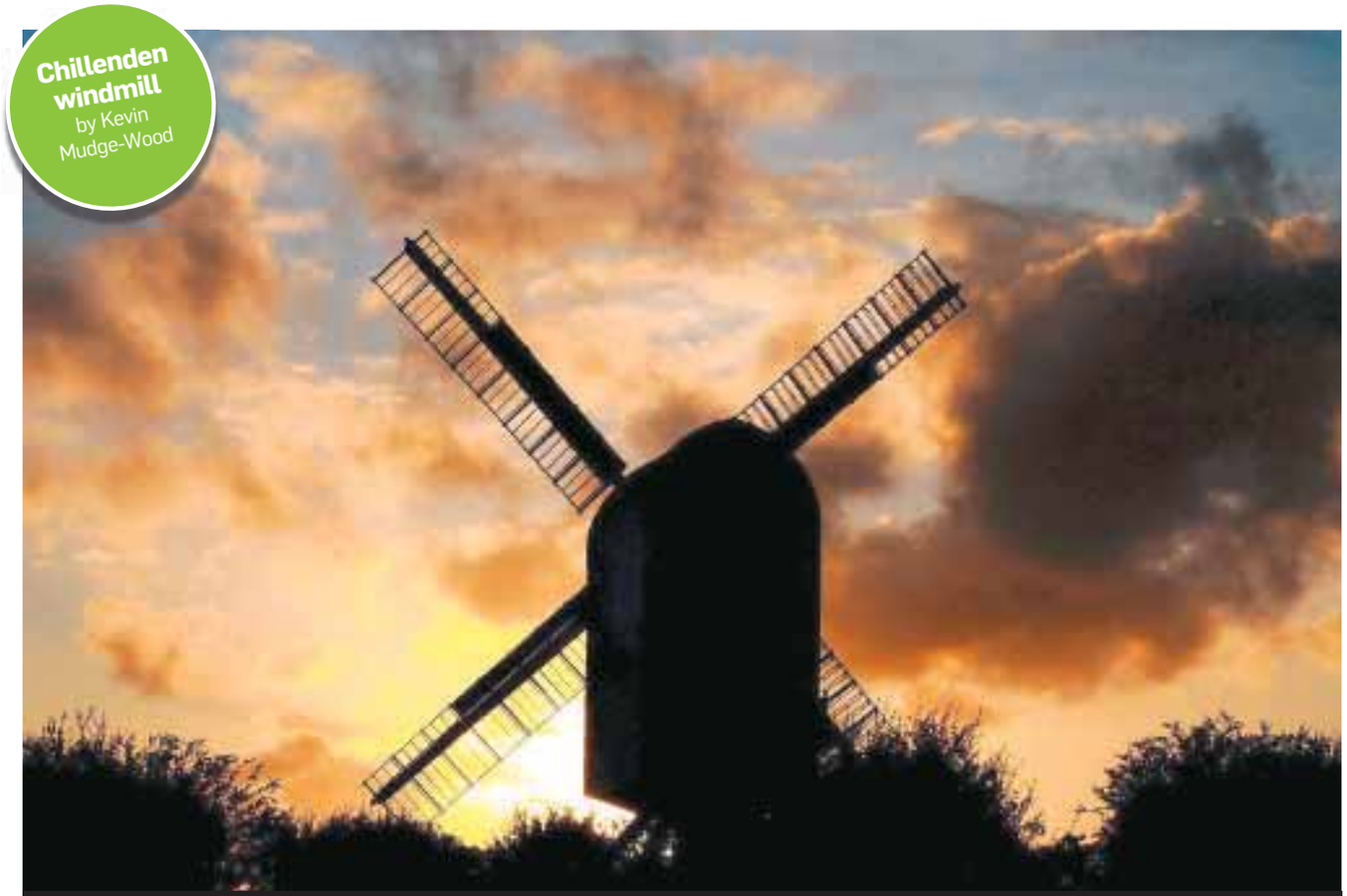

Chillenden windmill by Kevin Mudge-Wood

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Vulnerable put at risk by KCC

MANY people will not be aware that Kent County Council is preparing to cut £18.8 million from adult social care in the next year.

At a time when 7,000 older and disabled people have been told they no longer qualify for help, we hear the Government has underspent by £6.7 billion on their public spending budget this year.

This Conservative county council, instead of standing up to their government, are quite prepared to slash the budget to the most vulnerable and needy people within our county.

The next biggest budget cut proposal in Kent is to the looked-after children fund; children who are very often without parents, or have families unable to care for them.

Older people, the disabled, and children are the ones set to suffer the most under these County Hall proposals.

More and more our KCC is depending on the voluntary sector to provide the support that people need while at the same time reducing the grants paid to organisations to do the work that local authorities should carry out.

There is no mention in the consultation document of any cut to the vast payments and travel expenses paid yearly to their councillors.

Some of these people, publicly-elected into power, are receiving money from the public purse which is almost immoral.

Next April cheques for £44,000-plus will land on the door mats of the richest in the land while many people this winter will be cold and using food banks in order to survive

These Conservative people certainly know where their priorities lie.

Anne Belworthy, Chair Canterbury and District Pensioners' Forum

Just take my money, please

I RECENTLY attempted to pay my council tax at the local council offices – remember the Bible states "Render unto Caeser the things that are Caeser's".

However, the district council have a different view.

At the offices I told the woman on the desk I wanted to pay my council tax.

"Do you wish to pay by debit or credit card?" she enquired.

"No, I wish to pay by cash" was my reply.

She then informed me they didn't take cash, I would have to pay cash at a Post Office or at something called a Payzone.

I walked across Pencester Gardens and noticed a newsagent which advertised they were a 'PayPoint' so I queued up, only be told: "No, this is a PayPoint, you need a Payzone or the Post Office."

I hadn't realised there was such a difference.

My next port of call was the long queues at the Post Office, but eventually, mission accomplished, I have paid my council tax.

However, what I cannot believe is that I have got the cash, the council want my cash, but I have to go somewhere else for them to charge the council for taking my cash.

Anthony Sansum, Dover

Nepal deaths prove a point

NOW that a plane has unfortunately crashed in Nepal as a result of bird strike and people are talking about not flying there, it's confirmation we should not build an airport in the Thames Estuary.

If there were a crash, people would avoid London and fly to Amsterdam or Paris, making the whole exercise a complete waste of time and money.

Jean Coulter, by email

Police chief poll is a stunt

I HAVE recently received my first leaflet from a candidate campaigning for the position of Police and Crime Commissioner to oversee Kent Police and who is also a member of one of the major political parties.

Firstly, if we have to have these elected individuals (and personally I don't think we need them at all) why should it be politicians telling the police what their priorities should be?

Secondly, instead of spending the money that is going to be wasted on these elections for these unnecessary posts, why couldn't it have been used to give the police a proper pay rise and recruit more 'real' police officers?

This candidate wants to recruit more specials, better referred to as 'hobby-bobbies', and no doubt more community support/'plastic' police officers, so he can get the budget down by providing third-rate policing on the cheap.

The whole process is just another gimmick from this risible Coalition government and a profligate waste of money that will lead to political cronies from the major parties being elected, followed by the 'spin' to justify their existence while their effect on operational policing will be non-existent.

This ridiculous stunt, dreamt up by the most inept home secretary this country has seen in recent years, should never have seen the light of day.

Christopher Hudson-Gool, Maidstone

Silent attack on all drivers

IN 2007, the Government backed down after 1.8 million people signed a petition against road pricing.

Wary of that, the newly-elected Coalition government promised not to bring in road pricing (other than for lorries) or even prepare for it.

Although the Government would consider levying tolls on totally new major roads like motorways, we were assured our existing roads would not be tolled.

There is now, however, the threat of major routes in England effectively being sold off, and the public being charged to use existing roads.

The Government has quietly started engaging with local authorities with a view to softening up public opinion.

The driving public has paid something like £500 billion into the roads since 1997, with only a fraction spent back. To charge us even more for driving on inadequate roads would be adding insult to injury.

There is actually money for improving our roads, only it is spent on the wrong things – like HS2 and financing roads in other developed countries.

The Government should get its priorities right instead of reaching into our pockets.

I encourage readers to write to their MP c/o House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA to say, "can't pay, won't pay".

Brian Gregory, Chairman Association of British Drivers

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA ...WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**

Held to account over dead relative's wishes

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q AS EXECUTOR of a relative's will, I have been told by a building society that I must indemnify it before receiving funds from the deceased's account.

Should I agree, or try to find insurance cover against the unlikely event of someone laying claim to the funds?

A IF YOU have a Grant of Probate, that should be enough. It entitles you to collect together the deceased's assets, pay any bills and distribute the balance to beneficiaries under the will.

You have told me that you and your brother are the only surviving relatives, so the chances of a rival claim are remote.

I would sign the indemnity, promising to take responsibility if there is any dispute.

But I would also question why the society expects it in the first place.

Q IT APPEARS I am among the 12,000 people you mentioned recently who have received penalty notices for failing to fill in a tax return.

I have received penalties covering the three years to 2012, and I have lost count of the amount I am supposed to owe, which increases by £10 a day.

As a pensioner with a personal income of just £64 a week, the hassle is making me ill.

A I REPORTED that 12,000 people had received penalty letters in April after being told earlier by HM Revenue & Customs that they did not have to complete a tax return at all.

But you are in a league of your own, with fines going back three years when your income is clearly below the starting point for income tax.

If you have not already done so, appeal against the penalties so there is a record on your file.

If this does not work, contact the Revenue Adjudicator (0300 057 1111).

She is an outside referee who investigates complaints against tax officials and can overrule them.

Q I HAVE been thinking of opening a Regular Saver account with Nationwide, which is offering 6pc interest, but I am told I would also have to move my main bank account to Nationwide.

I am reluctant to leave Natwest, partly because I have a Natwest mortgage that I may wish to renew.

Is there any reason why I could not have accounts with both?

A TO QUALIFY for the regular saver account and its above-average interest, Nationwide says you must have its Flexaccount as your main current account.

If you do not already have a Flexaccount, you must ask Nationwide to arrange to transfer your business from Natwest, which would mean, of course, that Nationwide would close your Natwest account.

There is nothing to stop you opening a Flexaccount yourself, without using Nationwide's account transfer service.

But in that case, the society says you would have to pay at least £750 a month into the Flexaccount for the next three months, before qualifying for the Regular Saver deal.

This seems a lot of trouble to go to, just to get 6pc interest on a maximum of £250 monthly regular savings, when this interest rate lasts only until October next year.

If you are on good terms with Natwest and are likely to renew your home loan with the bank, I think I would stay put.

Q I PAY someone local £30 a week to take care of my garden. It has been suggested that this makes me liable for his income tax and national insurance, which would be extremely worrying if true.

A I HAVE received several letters from readers with the same concern, after a recent statement from a government minister condemned the whole idea of paying people cash in hand.

Legally, your gardener is almost certain to be self-employed, and not your employee.

This lets you off the hook completely. But even if he is classed as an employee, £30 is well below the starting point for tax and national insurance.

Pay anything less than £107 a week and you avoid all form-filling for the Revenue unless you are fully aware that he has other income that brings him into the tax net.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

A wave of unrest as 'sea change' hits child benefit

It is worth seeing if you can mitigate the forthcoming changes to child benefit. **ADAM AIKEN** reports

FAMILY MATTERS: There are ways to avoid missing out on child benefits, even if you are earning over the £50,000 a year which will see many UK families lose out

NEARLY 850,000 families are likely to be hit by changes to child benefit in a few months' time.

Experts are warning of a "sea change" to the whole system when updates to the process are introduced in the new year.

From January, child benefit will be means-tested and will affect anybody earning more than £50,000 a year.

"At this income level, there will be a charge of 1pc of the full child benefit for every £100 of income until all the benefit is lost at £60,000," said Murray Graham, a partner at chartered accountants Lovewell Blake.

At the moment, families receive child benefit of £1,055 a year for the first child and a further £696 a year for each additional child.

That means a high-earning family with three children aged under 16 could find themselves £2,450 a year worse off under the new rules.

The responsibility to report the child benefit will fall to the highest earner in the family – but that person will have no right to stop the benefit being received if the recipient in the household is someone else.

"The highest earner in the family must include the benefit payments on a self-assessment tax return each year and will have to repay any excess benefit received, regardless of who actually received it in the first place," Mr Graham said.

"However, the payments will not be stopped unless requested, but will instead have to be repaid after the year end.

"If the highest earner is the recipient, he or she can ask for payments to be stopped. If the lower earner receives the benefit, the higher earner has no power to make them stop receiving payments, but will remain the responsible person for repaying any excess each year."

He added: "It is important to note that if a choice is made not to receive payments, the eligible partner (generally the mother) must still register the birth with the Child Benefit Office as normal. This is important from a national insurance point of view and will provide credits towards future state pension entitlement under the Home Responsibilities Protection plan."

For any families hoping to sneak under the wire, Mr Graham warned that HM Revenue & Customs would be cross-checking tax and child benefit records and would enforce penalties for non-compliance and non-payment.

"Broadly speaking, interest on late payment is charged at 3pc a year plus an additional 5pc of tax still owed after 30 days, then a further 5pc after six months and another 5pc after 12 months," he said.

"Couples should agree who is the higher earner and will report the benefit each year, or come to an agreement where the recipient submits a request that payments be stopped."

But there could be ways to maintain your child benefit if you take some financial-planning steps in advance.

Mr Graham said someone's annual income, for self-assessment purposes, can be reduced by boosting the amount being put away for a pension or by using childcare vouchers.

Alternatively, there might be the opportunity to consider a salary-sacrifice scheme (which involves taking a smaller salary in return for non-taxable benefits in kind, such as a higher pension contribution from an employer) or to review the benefits of having a company car or other add-ons that do attract tax.

Matthew Stephens, a tax expert at Prudential, said the option to increase pension contributions could prove worthwhile.

"The new child benefit tax charge will be a real blow for many families next year, particularly in households where salaries are unevenly distributed and one parent is the main or sole breadwinner," he said.

"There is, however, a strong case for a parent whose income is between £50,000 and £60,000 to make additional pension savings to avoid the new tax, and at the same time boost their retirement income.

"Often people believe they can't afford to save, but... not saving for retirement could be a far more costly option."

Sarah Gleadell, a pensions and childcare-voucher expert at NW Brown, said HMRC would write to taxpayers soon with more details and to explain what they needed to do next. But she said that her own household would probably opt to receive childcare vouchers.

"People who think they will be affected by the change need to work out if they will be worse off taking the charge or choosing not to receive child benefit," she said.

Ms Gleadell recommended that people used HMRC's online calculator to see if they would be better off with childcare vouchers.

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You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Docks scheme could spark brighter future for Medway

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A HUGE development in north Kent is expected to bring some 3,500 jobs, hundreds of homes, a hotel, a supermarket and a conference and events centre to the banks of the River Medway.

The Chatham Waters project at Chatham Docks has been approved by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles – a decision that it is hoped will allow the area to be transformed.

Medway Council's planning committee agreed plans for the development in July, before it was referred to the Secretary of State for final approval.

The 26-acre site will see £650 million invested, providing an employment-led mixed-use redevelopment.

It will be built by Peel Land and Property, one of the UK's leading construction companies.

Jane Chitty, Medway Council portfolio holder for economic growth and strategic development, said: "This is extremely good news and I am always excited when someone shows they rate Medway and recognise it is a place to develop and do business in."

The developers are confident that the 1.9 million sq ft area will be transformed and plan office space, education facilities, an 'Event City' conference centre and a hotel alongside 950 apartments and townhouses and a supermarket.

There will also be a civic square lined by large sweeping parkland boulevards and other open spaces for recreation.

Cllr Chitty said: "This investment is from a private developer and shows just how far Medway has come in recent years. The area has a very good reputation for recognising the value of business – and of the value of local people.

FUTURE'S BRIGHT: The 26-acre site at Chatham Docks will host a hotel, supermarket, conference and event centre and hundreds of new homes

"There are a lot of people with a wide range of skills here and they are willing to work."

Peel Land and Property already owns the land at Chatham Docks and the family-run firm has an impressive pedigree.

It has developed projects such as Glasgow Harbour and the huge Trafford Centre shopping destination in Manchester.

It is also behind the Liverpool and Wirral Waters schemes – a huge plan to invest £10 billion redeveloping redundant docks in Merseyside.

The firm's most well-known scheme is Media City at Salford Quays in Greater Manchester. This huge development has been built to provide a new home for world-famous media names including the BBC, ITV and Coronation Street.

Salford Quays is also home to hotels, the Lowry and Imperial War Museum North and the University of Salford

Medway Council will now work with the developers to finalise legal agreements.

Rodney Chambers, leader of Medway Council, said: "This is a major step forward for the regeneration of Medway and is a clear indication of how the area is growing and continuing to attract significant investment."

"Not only will it create thousands of jobs for residents in the near future, but it will provide opportunities for future growth and unrivalled facilities for residents and visitors alike to enjoy and benefit from."

AVIATION

Manston-owner Infratil plays down reports of potential bid for Stansted

INFRATIL, the New Zealand company that owns Manston airport, is remaining cool about rumours that it is part of a consortium preparing a bid for Stansted airport.

Reports from New Zealand have suggested that Infratil is part of a group involving the New Zealand Superannuation Fund, which has formed 'a bid team' to buy the Essex airport, which competition regulators have ordered its Spanish owner to sell.

However, Steve Fitzgerald, from Infratil's management company Morrison & Co and who runs Infratil's airports business, said nothing had been formalised and played down the speculation.

Fitzgerald also dismissed industry suggestions that Infratil had signed a confidentiality agreement to gain access to Stansted's books.

He said: "At Morrison & Co we look at all airport transactions globally to see whether any of them might fit the investment criteria."

The management company has other business interests as well as Infratil, which has wide-ranging concerns itself, including transport and natural resources.

Spanish company Ferrovial bought control of British Airports Authority in 2006 but was ordered by competition authorities to sell Gatwick, Stansted and either Edinburgh or Glasgow.

A spokesman for BAA said: "We have no comment to make on the sell-off or any potential bidders."

FINANCE

Business bank 'far from perfect but step in right direction', says chamber chief

PLANS for a British business bank have won the cautious backing of Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

She said she welcomed the Government's proposal to put £1 billion into setting up a bank designed to increase the amount of lending to businesses, announced by Vince Cable.

The Business Secretary said the move was to help many small and medium-sized companies that had struggled for credit since the financial crisis started.

The bank will operate via existing lenders and start within 18 months. It is intended the money will be matched by private-sector investment, substantially increasing the sum available.

The details of where the state-funding will come from and the bank's operation will not be made public until Wednesday, December 5, Lib Dem officials said.

Ms James said: "The British Chambers of Commerce has been actively campaigning for the creation of such an institution and it is encouraging that it appears the Government is beginning to respond to the suggestions of the business community.

"Whilst it does seem the scheme is far from perfect, it is certainly a step in the right direction.

"Perhaps we can now have a little confidence that this government may be realising the value of the opinions of the business community."

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Double whammy for Hornby as disappointing Olympic sales and manufacturing woes see company fail to record a profit

MARGATE toy and model company Hornby has said it will not make a profit this year due to disappointing sales of London 2012 merchandise and disruption to production at its supplier in China.

And following its announcement, the company's shares fell about 40 per cent to 50 pence in the first few minutes of trading last week.

Lower-than-expected sales of Olympics products meant retailers cancelled repeat orders, so the firm now only expects to break even in the 2012-13 financial year. Last year it recored profits of £4.5 million.

OFF THE TRACK: Hornby was badly hit by lack of uptake with its Olympic range

Hornby, which owns the Airfix, Scalextric and Corgi brands, gained the licence to sell a range of London 2012 merchandising.

The company said initial orders from retailers before the Games had been good, and consumer purchases of Hornby goods were encouraging.

But retailers had bought large amounts of 2012 merchandise from a range of companies and had to slash prices after slow sales.

The firm said it would try to find alternative sources of products to try to reduce the disruption created by its Chinese supplier, which is rationalising its output.

Hornby is now offering up to 85 per cent off its Olympic and Paralympic ranges, which include model London 2012 taxis, Olympic-themed train sets and die-cast athlete figurines.

Ever-changing employment legislation in danger of locking unemployed out of workplace

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

INCREASING regulation can lock people out of the workforce and so a different approach is needed for small and large firms... the message was clear from the Federation of Small Businesses to Labour at the party's conference in Manchester.

The federation said that small firms bore a disproportionate amount of the regulatory burden, particularly around ever-changing employment legislation.

While small firms recognise that employment legislation benefits those already in employment, the FSB is concerned that, by introducing new regulations, disadvantaged groups will be locked out of the workforce.

This is because regulation increases the risks associated with hiring, which are particularly acute for small businesses, and can affect employers' willingness to hire in the first place.

The FSB argued it was small firms that created jobs and took on people who were shut out of the labour market; more than eight in 10 unemployed people who found work did so with a small business.

By creating policies that undermined the flexibility of small firms to recruit staff, they would become less able to take on those seeking employment, said the FSB.

The increasing scale of regulation also meant growth prospects were slowed and confidence to take on staff was reduced, it was claimed.

A recent FSB survey showed that 30 per cent of respondents believed employment law was a barrier to taking on new staff, and 26 per cent suggested that general regulation limited their operations.

WARNING: Roger House, FSB county chairman

More than one in five (21 per cent) said the risk of litigation or employment tribunals was a significant factor limiting recruitment.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "Taking a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't always work. Too many policy-makers don't think about the consequences of policy for small firms or for the people that are on the outside of the jobs market trying to get in.

"Those people are more likely to be taken on by a small business due to their flexibility, and so constant tinkering with the system will undermine this flexibility and result in fewer jobs being created.

"We know employment legislation is designed to protect those already in employment, but it doesn't help the people who are not working and it can make it more difficult for them to get a job in the first place."

The FSB is urging all political parties to recognise the importance of ensuring that small firms can operate as flexibly as possible to create the jobs needed in the current economic climate.

It would like to see:

- An exemption for micro and small firms from the right to request flexible working. Many small firms will do this informally where it is appropriate for the business and so don't need the added administration of formal requests.
- Changes to the onerous reporting requirements that will be placed on self-employed individuals when the Universal Credit system comes into force. These requirements will have a significant administrative and cost burden on self-employed individuals and will discourage entrepreneurship.
- A full exemption for micro-firms from burdensome pensions auto-enrolment, due to come into effect from 2017.
- The National Insurance Contributions holiday extended to all small firms across the UK that have fewer than four employees that take on up to an additional three.

Brewer bubbling over after posting record turnover

BRITAIN'S oldest brewer Shepherd Neame has defied the gloomy economic climate by posting a record turnover.

The company has also continued its investment in property by buying pubs and hotels throughout the last year.

Turnover at the Faversham firm over the year to June 30 was up 9.6 per cent to a record £133 million, from £121m in 2011. Profits before tax climbed 39.7 per cent to £9.1m.

Total beer sales rose by 5.6 per cent, with the brands Spitfire and Asahi Super Dry performing particularly well against a UK-wide market decline of 1.2 per cent. Liquor sales rose 6.2 per cent and food income was 10.9 per cent higher.

Part of the rise was due to the seven pubs and hotels bought by the chain over the period. However, total like-for-like sales, which excludes those new sites, still saw a growth of 7.6 per cent.

Shepherd Neame's hotel income increased by 7 per cent and since the end of the results period it has also purchased the Royal Wells Hotel in Tunbridge Wells, taking the total number of accommodation rooms owned by the company to 499.

Chief executive Jonathan Neame said: "This has been another successful year. Our beer, food and accommodation sales have all enjoyed strong growth for the second year in a row and the tenanted estate performance has been encouraging.

"Our strategy to invest in our pubs and brands during the economic downturn has strengthened the company, improved its competitive position and enhanced our reputation with consumers. Recent pub acquisitions have been successful and this has enabled us to take another step forward this year with some further excellent purchases, which provides a good platform for the future."

Last year the company sold 84.1 million pints. The majority were in the UK, but it also exports to more then 20 markets abroad.

Spitfire was a particularly good seller, up 5.7 per cent and boosted by the Glorious 2012 marketing campaign.

Asahi Super Dry saw a massive 20.4 per cent rise, with brand partnerships established with a London gallery and a beach resort in Cornwall.

New regional networking hub offers SMEs a better chance to get connected

FOLLOWING the success of their individual networking hubs, Basepoint business centres across the county have joined forces to form a regional networking hub at Basepoint Canterbury for all SMEs in the region.

Among those speaking at the first hub event will be Ashley Connell, of London Village Rentals (a licensee at Basepoint Chatham), and Josh Whitten, of Whitten Marketing – a licensee at Basepoint Folkestone.

Both will discuss how to make the most of entrepreneurial opportunities in business and the importance of social media for businesses. Basepoint is a UK-wide project that provides business support and facilities.

Hazel Causer, Basepoint area manager, said: "The aim of Basepoint's regional networking hubs is to bring local businesses together to create new business opportunities.

"To celebrate the local area, the event will have a Kentish theme.

"All attendees should expect hay hops, Kentish apple juice, ice-cream and, of course, fantastic talks from our speakers and all-important networking."

The regional networking event will take place at the Canterbury Innovation Centre on Tuesday, October 9, from 11am-2pm.

For further information, or to book a place, you can email michellegagie@basepoint.co.uk or phone 01474 338701.

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Training, courses and careers

Potential students offered a taste of life at university

THE University of Greenwich is holding an open day at its Kent campus for prospective students.

The event on Saturday, October 13, from 10am-3pm is aimed at all those considering university next year, and is at the Medway campus at Chatham Maritime.

Students and lecturers will be available to answer questions and show visitors around, and there will be displays and talks by staff.

"Taster sessions and introductory talks will be available to give the best possible idea of what it would be like to study at the university," said Beverley Woodhams, who is head of recruitment at the University of Greenwich.

The university says that according to the latest National Student Survey, 85 per cent of Greenwich's final-year students say they are definitely or mostly satisfied with the quality of their degree courses.

Greenwich is among the top five institutions nationally for students who are definitely or mostly satisfied with their course in law, and in engineering and technology.

Medway School of Pharmacy, which is run jointly by the universities of Greenwich and Kent, is ranked in the top five of all universities and HE colleges in the whole country, with a 92 per cent overall satisfaction score.

The university is home to nearly 28,000 students, representing more than 100 countries across the world.

They pursue academic interests from a choice of more than 1,200 teaching programmes to study. The range of subjects available includes architecture and design, business studies, education, engineering, nursing, and sciences. There are also opportunities for further research and postgraduate study.

New test centre can help students get into industry

PEOPLE looking to start a career in construction or IT support can now take essential industry exams at Canterbury College's Swale campus.

Exams for the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) and Microsoft Technical Courses can be taken at the college's newly-opened Prometric Testing Centre, which is the only one of its kind in Swale.

The CSCS must be passed before someone can work on a building site and the industry-recognised Microsoft Technical Courses can lead to jobs in IT support, or database administration.

Before the Swale Campus' Prometric Testing Centre opened, the nearest CSCS exams were held in Canterbury and Microsoft Technical Course tests were in Maidstone.

There are also plans for the Swale campus to host the DSA Driving Theory and other exams.

The college's head of corporate IT, said Jan Hughes said: "The college is very proud to offer these exams which are invaluable to anybody wanting to get started in construction or IT.

"This will be a massive help to people in the area who would have struggled getting to exams held further away. We're looking forward to adding to the exams that can be taken here in the future."

The Prometric room has a dedicated exam invigilator and computers that run independently of the college's computing network to ensure fair testing.

Sweet shop manager presented with retail learner gong by Dragon

RICKIE Strevens from Swanscombe, has won the Retail Learner of the Year 2012 award,

She was presented with her prize by Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis, after she studied the Retail Works programme at the Learning Shop in Bluewater, which is part of North West Kent College.

More than 500 key retailers from across the country gathered at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London's Park Lane, London, for Retail Week's 2012 Skillsmart Retail Rising Star Awards, to celebrate the achievements of the up-and-coming stars of retail.

Rickie, who is manager of Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe in Bluewater, was nominated for Retail Learner of the Year 2012 for the hard work and success she achieved in her position at the store, and through the eight-week part-time Retail Works programme she undertook at the Learning Shop.

In less than a year, Rickie was promoted to manager of Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shop and currently works with the Learning Shop to provide other learners with opportunities of experience and apprenticeships with the business.

She said: "It took me less than a year to progress from sales assistant to store manager and this would not have been possible without the Retail Works course, not only for the skills it taught me and confidence it gave me but also for the way it introduced me to how qualifications and development are an essential part of your retail career.

"Thank you to everyone who had faith in me."

The Retail Learner of the Year 2012 Award category was open to learners who had completed or embarked on a retail qualification which resulted in them using their knowledge and skills to develop and further their career.

Judges looked for a learner who had inspired others to develop their skills through learning and who had achieved success by maximising their knowledge, as well as making a difference to their own personal development and who had proven to be beneficial to their employer.

To find out more about Retail Week's 2012 Skillsmart Retail Rising Stars Awards visit www.retailweekrisingstars.co.uk/home. For more information about courses at the Learning Shop call 01322 382365, or go www.learningshopbluewater.co.uk.

RISING STAR: Rickie Strevens and Theo Paphitis at the awards ceremony in London

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

Community fund cash will help train the radio presenters of the future

FOLKESTONE'S community radio station, 105.9 Academy FM Folkestone, has won funding to run a project that trains local people to become radio reporters.

Our Community Communicates project has secured funding of £16,800 from the Community Learning Innovation Fund, to teach adults from the age of 19-years-old upwards, the skills need to interview different people in the community.

Over the next year, Academy FM will train local people to research and conduct interviews on subjects that impact how on how live people in the community live their lives. The project will involve giving training to 36 adults.

Academy FM's head of news Sarah Carre said: "Many of the interviews recorded will be broadcast on Academy FM.

"It's important that people can be involved in their community and feel they can ask the questions to the right people. Whether it's local politics or services, community issues, health, education, or anything else with a local focus, we're happy to discuss it.

"In this project, local people will become radio reporters covering the issues that matter to them. Anyone interested in being trained in interviewing skills should call me in the office on 01303 721059 or email sarah.carre@academyfmfolkestone.com."

Academy FM is a community radio station and a charity, based in Folkestone Academy School.

Nearly all of the presenters are volunteers from the local community, including many young people.

The station says it has a strong educational focus, with many young people learning communication skills, teamwork, self-confidence, and skills for the workplace.

The Community Learning Innovation Fund, from the Skills Funding Agency and managed by NIACE, will contribute to the Government's objectives for community learning.

The fund will deliver new and creative learning opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged people through learning to support social and economic well-being, digital inclusion and stronger families and communities.

For more information about the fund you can visit www.niace.org.uk/clf.

sponsored by KENT ADULT EDUCATION

The Margate mass Mobot is a golden celebration

MARGATE performed a mass Mobot in celebration of the town and its young people at the annual Hartsdown Academy awards night.

During a speech highlighting the academy's achievements of the last 12 months, executive head Andy Somers invited the audience of civic dignitaries, VIP guests, students, families, friends, governors and staff to rise and join him in the Mobot celebration made famous worldwide by Olympic gold medallist Mo Farah.

But this time the M stood for Margate.

Mr Somers said: "The theme for this year's Olympics 2012 was Inspire A Generation. I firmly believe that is what we do so well at Hartsdown – inspire generations of young people.

"We are proud of our students, proud of our success, and proud of Margate.

"I believe everyone associated with Hartsdown deserves a gold medal. I know we can't afford them but we can afford to celebrate.

"So I can't think of a better way to demonstrate our feelings than with that fantastic Mobot gold winning celebration from the Olympics – but this time the M stands for Margate."

GOLD MEDAL EVENT: The crowd does the Mobot

Another highlight of the evening at the Winter Gardens was an appearance on stage by Mayoress Cllr Jodie Hibbert, who joined the award-winning Hart Sounds choir on lead vocal for a performance of High by the Lighthouse Family.

There was an Olympic theme to Mr Somers' speech. He said: "The last 12 months will be remembered as the year we outstripped our previous personal best performances across the board and continued to shine as brightly as an Olympic flame.

"We enjoyed gold star performances throughout the most successful and busiest year in our proud history.

"And that is due to the fantastic determination and enthusiasm of our students, the sheer professional dedication of our staff, and the tremendous support we receive from out governors, parents and families."

Spires Academy starts new year in state-of-the-art £13.4m building

THE start of the new term marked the beginning of a new era for Spires Academy as the doors opened on its architect-designed £13.4m building.

Students left behind their old school, which began life as Sturry Central in 1937, to walk into the state-of-the-art premises.

The light-filled, ultra-modern academy has been designed by London architects Jestico + Whiles for construction firm Carillion.

Work started on the 5,872sqm building in March, 2011, and was completed on schedule for its opening last month.

The new academy in Sturry is designed to accommodate 600 students in six learning areas and is built around a central hub or 'heart space', where the cafeteria is also situated.

Headteacher Nicki Mattin said: "It has been a smooth transition into the new building and it was a wonderful experience watching the awe-struck expressions of the students as they arrived on the first day.

"The design of the building works extremely well, creating a calm, purposeful atmosphere, with a central space that is the heart and soul of the academy."

Highlights of the building include a dance studio and amphitheatre for outdoor performance, plus a recording studio with 16-channel mixing desk, which provide a platform to showcase the academy's specialism of visual creative and performing arts.

Animal care student raises funds for RSCPA with a climb up Kilimanjaro

AN animal care student from Canterbury College has raised hundreds of pounds for an RSPCA centre by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

Jonathan Stevens, 18, from Ramsgate, made £400 for the Woodchurch Animal Centre near Birchington by scaling Africa's tallest mountain during his summer holiday.

Jonathan, who studies introduction to dog grooming at the college and volunteers at the animal centre part-time, was sponsored by his tutors and classmates.

His trip lasted a fortnight and covered two mountains – Meru which is 14,977ft high and which he climbed as preparation for tackling Kilimanjaro which stands at 19,341ft above sea level.

Jonathan, who is used to encountering dogs, parrots, meerkats, birds and tortoises at Canterbury College's Animal Care department, came face to face with wild monkeys, elephants and giraffes.

It took him five days to get to the top of Kilimanjaro and two more days to get back down.

Jonathan said: "I wanted to climb Mount Kilimanjaro to challenge myself and because it would be a once in a lifetime experience."

going beyond...

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Mary Guarnieri (Matron) or
Vicky Smith (Clinical Effectiveness Co-ordinator)
01843 234555 ext 63453
Closing date for all applications Friday 19 October
For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
Spencer Private Hospital
Ramsgate Road
Margate
Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556
Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

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Public Appointments

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Co-educational boarding school: 450 pupils aged 11-18, Member of SBSA, SHMIS

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To work as a job-share in a Boarding House. Duties inc supervision of pupils, dealing with parents, maintenance of clothing inc laundry, sewing, ironing, accompany pupils to medical appointments, working as a team with the housekeeper and assisting with cleaning during holidays & other absences. Applicants must be prepared to fully contribute to the general welfare of pupils and to work as part of a small team. Experience of working with young people is essential & ICT skills. A first aid qualification would be an advantage. Hours: 34 per wk during term time working a shift rota over 7 days term time, week days only during holidays. Salary £15725 per annum (pro rata)

Closing date: Midday 4th Oct
Interviews: W/C 8th Oct

An application form & further details can be located on the school's website www.doyrms.com , emailing reception@doyrms.com or 01304 245023. CVs will not be accepted.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Candidates must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:.

Catering Assistant, Part-time, term time only — ***Ref: P0550***

Salary: £13,807 pro rata - Maidstone Campus, 18.5 hours per week

The successful applicant will have experience of working in the catering industry and understand the importance of health and safety in the kitchen and restaurant environment. The postholder will be expected to support the catering and hospitality lecturers during lessons to ensure that students observe safe practices and clean their working areas to the required standard. The postholder will be expected to carry out cleaning duties as required. A qualification in food safety/hygiene is desirable.

Closing date: Thursday 11 October 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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1. Stay relevant and keep it concise and punchy – a covering letter should only be one page in length.
2. Ensure there are no spelling or grammatical errors.
3. Be concise and straight to the point.
4. Aim for only 2 paragraphs within the letter.
5. Always include your name and address at the top right hand corner.
6. Address the letter to the person that is recruiting the job you are applying for, don't use 'Dear Sir or Madam'.
7. Highlight your skills, experience and achievements relevant to the job.
8. Use an appropriate font size and type – Times Roman or Arial in 10 point type are easy to read.
9. Tailor the letter for each individual application you make.
10. Always enclose a covering letter, even when applying for a job online.

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:.

Hourly-paid Lecturer in ICT — ***Ref: SESS***

Hourly rate: £23.44 - £27.22 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

The College is looking for an energetic, enthusiastic and forward-thinking individual who has both industry knowledge of, and the ability to teach a range of subjects within our current range of BTEC IT qualifications up to Level 3. This might include: hardware, networking, programming, systems support, games design, animation or other discipline within our curriculum area. An effective team player, you will have excellent communication skills and be eager to innovate, respond flexibly to industry demands and contribute to the development of the IT curriculum area. The successful candidate must have at least a level 3 qualification or equivalent in a Computing related subject with a Cert Ed/PGCE teaching qualification or have a willingness to undertake a formal teaching qualification to required national standards. Recent experience of teaching young people up to Level 3 would be advantageous.

Youth Worker Apprentices x 2, full time — ***Ref: P0165, P0166***

Medway and Maidstone

We are currently seeking two energetic and professional young people to enhance our youth work offer at the college to provide students with opportunities to build their own skills, develop on and offsite activities and participate in college enrichment opportunities such as sport, Duke of Edinburgh and volunteering. You will be fully supported through the college Student Support team and day to day mentoring, support and guidance will be with the college Youth Worker and Students' Union. On a day to day basis you will cross all departments in the college to ensure engagement by students and staff. You will be expected to work across our two main campuses; Medway and Maidstone. The core hours will be 8.30am-5pm Mon - Fri with occasional evening and weekend work You will undertake a recognised Youth Work qualification in order to achieve your apprenticeship. **Training allowance:** £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification.

Apprentice in Business Administration, full time — ***Ref: P0164***

Medway Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in our Student Support Department. The successful candidate will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within Business Administration. **Training allowance:** £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification.

Lecturer in Functional Skills, part time permanent — ***Ref: P0300***

Salary: £26,336 - £30,118 per annum, pro rata (dependant on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

The College is seeking to appoint an exceptional candidate to participate in the delivery of Functional and Skills for Life qualifications across the Construction and Services Engineering Faculty. The successful candidate will be willing to organise and lead the delivery of learning activities and contribute to the development of Functional Skills across the Faculty. The ideal candidate will have experience of teaching Vocational Skills and Functional Skills and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification

Closing date: 18th October 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/02647/HOUSE **Ryecroft Chapel Lane, Benenden**
- Removal of conservatory and replace with sun room (LB) (CA)

12/02648/LBC **Ryecroft Chapel Lane, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of conservatory and replace with sun room (LB)

12/02022/HOUSE **Mockbeggar House Wilsley Green, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Removal of existing rotten windows and 1 door with replace with like for like (CA) (LB)

12/02023/LBC **Mockbeggar House Wilsley Green, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of existing rotten windows and 1 door with replace with like for like (LB)

12/02468/HOUSE **Little Nut Hall The Common, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Removal of modern conservatories to main house and annexe, single-storey rear extension and construction of new pool building (LB)

12/02469/LBC **Little Nut Hall The Common, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of modern conservatories to main house and annexe, single-storey rear extension and construction of new pool building (LB)

12/02625/HOUSE **The Vicarage Waterloo Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Single storey side extension and detached garage (LB) (CA)

12/02632/FUL **The Crown High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Modernisation of open sided conservatory to rear to provide family area, disabled toilet and child play area facility; provision of special function facilities; modernise kitchen and enlarge restaurant. Decorate and up-grade existing frontage (LB) (CA)

12/02633/LBC **The Crown High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Modernisation of open sided conservatory to rear to provide family area, disabled toilet and child play area facility; provision of special function facilities; modernise kitchen and enlarge restaurant. Decorate and up-grade existing frontage (LB)

12/02653/HOUSE **Turks Oast Cottage The Meads, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Single storey annexe extension (LB)

12/02636/FUL **Mount Pleasant House 4 - 6 Lonsdale Gardens, Culverden**
- Replacement of 1 no. equipment cabinet with 2 no. equipment cabinets, plus ancillary works (CA)

12/02537/LBC **The Dovecot Home Farm, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations to existing dwelling (LB)

12/02541/LBC **The Old Dairy Home Farm, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Conversion of The Old Dairy to form dwelling (LB)

12/02646/FUL **Great Owl Castlemaine Oast, Horsmonden**
- Change of use of land from agricultural to residential (LB)

12/02664/LBC **25 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolish small brick wall to basement with window and grill inset (work already carried out) (LB)

12/02666/LBC **25 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Alter layout of property by adding removeable studwork to create separate rooms. Remove and relocate a staircase from the ground floor to the first floor, and reinstate the stairwell and staircase from the basement floor to the ground floor (work commenced) (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 6 October 2012

Swale Borough Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 22 OCTOBER 2012

SW/12/1087:
2 storey addition above existing ground floor addition to provide enlarged accommodation for 2 existing flats - 15 High Street, Blue Town, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1182:
Temporary stationing of a mobile home - Hooks Hole Farm, Chestnut Street, BORDEN; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1183:
Temporary stationing of 3 mobile homes - The Old Chalk Quarry, Hooks Hole Farm, Chestnut Street, BORDEN; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1186 &
SW/12/1187:
Remove existing fire escape stairs; erect balcony to rear; replace existing fire door with new door to match window proportions - 39 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1188:
Redevelopment of site for Extra Care scheme comprising a three storey block of flats made up of 38 no: two bed flats and 13 no: one bedrooms flats (51 in total) including front and rear entrance lobbies, receptions area, lounge, activity room, cafe and hair/therapy (all allowing public access), kitchen, laundry and offices. Provision of 21 no: parking bays (including 2 no:disabled) and communal rear landscaped garden - Wyllie Court, Attlee Way, Milton Regis, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1493/S - WIERTON COTTAGE, WIERTON HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JT - Garden shed. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1674/S - HAZELDENE NURSERY, DEAN STREET, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0PS - Erection of replacement dwelling and detached garage. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/1681/N - THE MARTINS, 7, STREETFIELD, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1DS - Erection of detached outbuilding (resubmission of MA/12/1260). **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1684/S - 2, 3 & 4 FARLEIGH HILL TRADING ESTATE, FARLEIGH HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6RG - Change of use from warehouse (use class B8) to gymnasium (use class D2) with minor alterations to front elevation of Unit 3. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/1696/S - BRISHING COURT STABLES, BRISHING LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4NF - Listed building consent for works involved in the conversion of the stables to an independent dwelling. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1704/N - 3, CHAPEL FARM COTTAGES, LENHAM HEATH ROAD, LENHAM HEATH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2BJ - Erection of two storey side extension and front entrance canopy. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1706/S - 3, KIRKDALE COTTAGES, KIRKDALE, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0EA - A retrospective application for the installation of timber double glazed doors to rear of existing extension and rear access steps. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1708/S - MOTTO COTTAGE, LOWER ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3BL - Listed Building Consent for removal of existing timer sun-room and replacement with aluminium conservatory. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1709/S - MOTTO COTTAGE, LOWER ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3BL - Erection of a conservatory. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1714/N - KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, SESSIONS HOUSE, COUNTY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1XQ - Application for listed building consent for removal of non load bearing walls to form open plan officer area and kitchen area. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 -Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 -Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 -Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 -Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **21st October 2012** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 7th October 2012

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Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0775/SH - Greenways Old Road Elham Canterbury Kent - Erection of a summerhouse together with decking area and provision of parking area in association with new vehicular access from existing track to rear.

Y12/0865/SH - 37 Sandgate Hill Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3AX - Erection of a detached timber outbuilding (re-submission of planning application Y12/0459/SH).

Y12/0852/SH + - Saltwood House Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Felling of a Leylandii/Lawson Cypress boundary hedge situated within a conservation area followed by the planting of a Yew hedge.

Y12/0880/SH - 11 Westcliff House West Cliff Gardens Folkestone Kent CT20 1SZ - Installation of replacement uPVC balcony doors 3rd floor on southwest elevation.

Y12/0879/SH - Hill View Cottage Exted Hill Elham Canterbury Kent - Section 73 application to vary conditions 2 and 9 of planning permission Y10/0778/SH to enable an alternative stable design and sub-division of the field into 3 paddocks.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:
- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe
Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.
The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.
C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/TM/0326/2012 - Proposed development at St Peters CE Primary School, Mount Pleasant, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7BE.

St Peters CE Primary School is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission to create a new school administrative office. The proposed development is within the Aylesford Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 7 October 2012

Kent County Council

Planning applications

Canterbury City Council

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/00590/FUL: 7-16 Stour Street, Canterbury, CT1 2NR Demolition of existing former warehouse and erection of 12 almshouse flats, guest suite and community room with associated car parking. **Applicant: Eastbridge Hospital** Reason: Major and conservation area.
CA//12/01362/FUL: 16 Abbots Place, Canterbury, CT1 2AH Installation of window in side elevation and alterations to ground floor window and door openings in rear elevation. **Applicant: Mr Jackson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01622/FUL: The Old Manor, Cockering Road, Thanington, CT1 3UR Installation of solar panels in the rear garden. **Applicant: R Murray** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//12/01627/FUL: 63 Regent Street, Whitstable, CT5 1JF Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr K Thomas** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01664/FUL: Great Pett Oast, Pett Hill, Bridge, CT4 5AN Erection of summerhouse/shed. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Mr Shirley** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01666/FUL: 6 Argyle Road, Whitstable, CT5 1JS Replacement windows to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs J Blanche** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01667/FUL: 24 Westbere Lane, Westbere, CT2 0HH Single-storey front extension **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Mikhail** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01668/FUL: Daweswood, Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington CT2 9NG Erection of porch to front elevation and single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr A Collins** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01670/FUL: Newspaper House, 29 Simmonds Road, Canterbury, CT1 3YR Demolition of the existing building and its replacement with a Church Building. **Applicant: The City Church** Reason: Major and conservation area.
CA//12/01671/CAC: Newspaper House, 29 Simmonds Road, Canterbury, CT1 3YR Demolition of the existing building and its replacement with a Church Building. **Applicant: The City Church** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//12/01674/FUL: Fairways, The Drive, Chestfield, CT5 3NW Proposed entrance porch to front elevation. **Applicant: Mr T Taylor** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01677/FUL: Daws Cottage, Canterbury Road, Herne, CT6 7JY Proposed extensions and alterations to existing dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Mayhew** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01689/FUL: 29 Downs Park, Herne Bay, CT6 6BZ Replacement of garage to side of dwelling. **Applicant: Miss L Hirst** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01695/FUL: Shrub Hill Cottage, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PA Replacement dwelling with associated garage block. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Boulton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01696/CAC: Shrub Hill Cottage, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PA Replacement dwelling with associated garage block. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Boulton** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//12/01699/LB: Diocesan And Payne Smith Primary School, Broad Street, Canterbury, CT1 2LU Proposed conversion of existing primary school building and the addition of two two- storey semi-basement buildings. **Applicant: The King's School** Reason: Work to a Listed Building
CA//12/01700/FUL: Diocesan And Payne Smith Primary School, Broad Street, Canterbury, CT1 2LU Proposed conversion of existing primary school building and the addition of two two-storey semi-basement buildings. **Applicant: The King's School** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/01706/FUL: 16 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EP Single-storey extension and associated works. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr and Mrs S Nation** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01709/FUL: Three Elms, The Street, Bossingham, Upper Hardres, CT4 6DX Erection of garage (retrospective) **Applicant: Mr N Fisher** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01711/FUL: 52 Western Avenue, Herne Bay, CT6 8TX Replacement windows and door to front of property **Applicant: Mrs L Barton** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 29 October 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 5 October 2012

To advertise in this section 01303 817056

PLANNING

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS
2011-2012
NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT
AND DEPOSIT OF ACCOUNTS

The Audit of the Accounts of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2012 has been concluded and the Statement of Accounts are available for inspection at the Gateway, Royal Tunbridge Wells, weekdays (excluding public holidays) between 9am and 4pm or on the Council's website at:

http://www2.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=1381

As required by Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act 1988 the Statement of Accounts will be open to the inspection of any local government elector of the Borough who may make a copy of it or of an extract from it.

Lee M. Colyer CPFA
Head of Finance & Governance
(s151 Officer)
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN1 1RS

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2011-12 NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF AUDIT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that under Regulation 11 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 the District Auditor has completed the audit of the above accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012

An unqualified opinion and the audit certificate on the accounts were issued by the District Auditor on the 20 September 2012. On the same date, the District Auditor issued an unqualified conclusion on the Council's arrangements for securing value for money as required by the Audit Commission's Code of Practice. The Auditor has not identified any issues of public interest to report under Section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

In accordance with Section 14 of the 1998 Act, any local government elector for the area may:

- inspect and make copies of the Statement of Accounts;
- ask the Council for a copy of the Statement of Accounts.

Copies of the Statement of Accounts will be provided to any such elector on payment of £5 for each copy. The Statement of Accounts is available for inspection by any local government elector for the area at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, MEIO 3HT, on weekdays (excluding public holidays) between 9:00 am and 4.30 pm. The accounts can also be found on the Council's website: http://www. swale.gov.uk/statement-of-accounts/

Abdool Kara
Chief Executive

Licensing Act 2003)
CANTERBURY
CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that Gulbenkian & Colyer-Fergusson of University of Kent has applied to Canterbury City Council for the GRANT of a Premises License (Licensing Act 2003) for the premises Gulbenkian & Colyer-Fergusson situated at University of Kent, Giles Lane, Canterbury CT2 7NB Proposed times Monday to Sunday 8am to 3am for the performances of plays, films, live music, recorded music, dance and similar, making music, dancing, late night refreshment and supply alcohol for an estimated maximum of 2000 visitors. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.canterbruy.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW Tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 26th October 2012. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

GOODS VEHICLE
OPERATOR'S LICENCE

999 LOGISTICS LIMITED OF SHELMERDENE COMMERCIAL YARD, ADDINGTON GREEN, ADDINGTON, KENT, ME19 5BE is applying for licence to use HIGH FIELD FARM, CROW DRIVE, HALSTEAD, KENT, TN14 7EG as operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KB34

IN THE PARISH OF MAIDSTONE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KB34 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath KB34, between Hermitage Lane and TQ 731 558 a distance of approx 75 metres from the 1st October 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 8th October 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is adjacent to current path and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: John Pelham

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE RESTRICTED BYWAY ZSX84

IN THE PARISH OF SHEERNESS

RESTRICTED BYWAY ZSX84, SHEERNESS (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Restricted Byway ZSX84 between The Fleet (NGR TQ 914 739) and the play area (NGR TQ 914 740) beneath the power cables from the 22nd October 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 5 November 2012.

The route is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via a path around the north, east and south of the play area and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR405

IN THE PARISH OF IGHTHAM

PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR405 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath MR405, between Fen Pond Road and Borough Green Road from the 1st October 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 14th October 2012.

The path is to be closed to install cables and there is a likelihood of dangers to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snoding

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 7th October 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12
NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF AUDIT

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that under Regulation 11 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 the District Auditor has completed the audit of the above accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012.

An unqualified opinion and the audit certificate on the accounts were issued by the District Auditor on the 30th September 2012. On the same date, the District Auditor issued an unqualified conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing value for money as required by the Audit Commission's Code of Practice. The Auditor has not identified any issues of public interest to report under Section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

In accordance with Section 14 of the 1998 Act, any local government elector for the area may:

- Inspect and make copies of the Statement of Accounts.
- Ask the Authority for a copy of the Statement of Accounts.

The Statement of Accounts is available for inspection by any local government elector for the area at Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL, on weekdays (excluding public holidays) between 9.00am and 5.00pm. The accounts can also be found at:

http://www.ashford.gov.uk/ashford_borough_council/budgeting_and_accounts.aspx

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Abode Canterbury, High Street, Canterbury**
Applicant: **Declan Kelly**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

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IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

CHURCH LANE, ALDINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electrical cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Lane, Aldington, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A20 Hythe Road, Station Road, Goldwell Lane and Roman Road.

GOLDWELL LANE, GREAT CHART (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Goldwell Lane, Great Chart, on or after 24 October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Etchden Road and Vitters Oak Lane.

The alternative route is via Etchden Road, Ninn Lane, The Street, Ashford Road and Goldwell Lane.

MOCKBEGGAR LANE, BIDDENDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mockbeggar Lane, Biddenden, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 2 weeks, between 7.30 am and 5.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length, i.e. between Cranbrook Road and Goddards Green Road, with no through access.

The alternative route is via Cranbrook Road, Benenden Road and Goddards Green Road.

MUNDY BOIS ROAD, EGERTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a drainage culvert, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mundy Bois Road, Egerton, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Kingsland Lane to the property called Honess.

The alternative route is via Mundy Bois Road, Smarden Road, Egerton Road, New Road, Rock Hill Road and Mundy Bois Road.

SUSSEX AVENUE, STURGESS ROAD & KENT AVENUE, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sussex Avenue, Sturgess Road and Kent Avenue, Ashford, on or after 25 October 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The three roads will be closed in succession, in phases for their entire lengths.

There is no alternative route. The one-way Traffic Orders for the three roads will be suspended to allow access up to where the road is closed, from either direction.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

PIGEON LANE, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pigeon Lane, Herne Bay, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed immediately to the west of the junction with Windmill Road.

The alternative route is via Mill Lane, Hillbrow Avenue and Hillcroft Road.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

MOUNTS ROAD, SWANSCOMBE, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new water supply to property no 111 Mounts Road on behalf of Thames Water, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mounts Road, Swanscombe, Dartford , on or after 22nd October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with A226 London Road and the junction with Knockhall Road and there will be no access for through traffic.

The alternative route is via A226 London Road, Knockhall Chase, Knockhall Chase.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (LINGFIELD AVE, DARTFORD) (PROVISION OF TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES)

THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 AS AMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT ACT 1981 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 90 "A" to Section 90 "I" of the Highway Act 1980 as amended by Section 32 and Schedule 10 of the Transport Act 1991 and by paragraph 12 of Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1991 and of all other enabling powers, proposes to provide the traffic calming measures described in the schedule hereto. The roads affected and the locations of the proposed measures are described in the schedule.

A plan showing the locations of the proposed measures may be inspected during normal working hours at the offices of Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD.

Anyone wishing to support this proposal, or object to it, should write to Rebecca Scott-Beaulieu, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Henwood Ind Estate, Ashford TN24 8AD by not later than 28 October 2012.

SCHEDULE
Flat Top Speed Hump
(75mm in height, 7.5m in length
(including approach ramps) full road width)

1. Lingfield Avenue, Dartford	Outside of nos 4 & 6 Lingfield Ave
2. Lingfield Avenue, Dartford	Outside of no 18 Lingfield Ave

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

BEACH STREET, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of Beach Street, Deal, on or after 22 October 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The one-way section of Beach Street from the roundabout will be closed near the junction with South Street.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Broad Street and South Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of this section of Beach Street will be suspended, to allow access.

The alternative route is via Broad Street, A258 Beach Street and South Street.

BROADSOLE LANE, WEST HOUGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate local flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broadsole Lane, West Hougham, on or after 22 October 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Broadsole Pond.

The alternative route is via The Street, Eight Acres and Broadsole Lane.

BUCKLAND TERRACE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Buckland Terrace, Dover, on or after 22 October 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Shooter's Hill and the TA Centre.

The alternative route is via London Road, Erith Street, George Street and Shooter's Hill.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHURCH STREET, DOVER) (ONE WAY STREET AND CONTRAFLOW CYCLE LANE) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of this Order allows pedal cycles to travel against the existing one-way traffic flow when using the designated cycle lane in the following location:

Church Street, Dover — *Between Stembrook and Castle Street.*

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by this Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

The Order will be made on 11 October 2012 and will come into operation on 15 October 2012.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

COOMBE VALLEY ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to alter the crash protection beams on the railway bridge and phone cabling in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coombe Valley Road, Dover, on or after 28 October 2012, as shown below.

Closures are planned for Sunday 28 October and Sunday 4 November 2012, between 8.00 am and 8.00 pm each day.

There is a possibility that the road will also need to be closed the following Sunday 11 November, at the same times.

The closures are in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Coombe Valley Road, Barwick Road, St Radigund's Road, Bunkers Hill Road, Hillside Road, Crabble Avenue, Crabble Road, Crabble Hill, Buckland Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue and London Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (SERVICE PRECINCT, DOVER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order permits pedal cycles to use Market Square as part of the River Dour Greenway route at the following locations:-

Market Square, Dover — *For its entire area west of a line between the north east corner of no.5 King Street and the boundary lines of no 6 and 7 Market Square.*

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by this Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

The Order will be made on 11 October 2012 and will come into operation on 15 October 2012.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 15) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order prohibits loading at any time at the following location:-

Pencester Road, Dover — *On the northwest side of the road, from a point at the boundary of no.18 Pencester Road and no.20 Pencester Road, in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 23m.*

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by this Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Kent, CT16 3PJ during normal opening hours.

The Order will be made on 11 October 2012 and will come into operation on 15 October 2012.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose

WHITE HILL, LANGDON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance work to the railway bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on White Hill, Langdon, on or after 28 October 2012 for up to 1 day, between 7.30 am and 8.30 pm.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge, with no through access.

The alternative route is via Solton Lane, A258 Deal Road, Hangman's Lane, The Street, East Langdon Road and White Hill.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

(VARIOUS ROADS, DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984:

The effect of the proposed named Order (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines; SYL and loading restrictions means no waiting at the times prescribed below).

MAIDSTONE:

Bower Lane; DYL, western side, from its junction with Tonbridge Road to its junction with Upper Fant Road in a southerly direction.

Bower Lane; DYL, eastern side, from its junction with Tonbridge Road in a southerly direction for a distance of 35 metres.

And DYL, from a point 8 metres north of its junction with Evelyn Road to a point 10 metres south of its junction with Evelyn Road.

And DYL, from a point 27 metres south of its junction with Evelyn Road for a distance of 5 metres in a southerly direction.

And DYL, from a point 19 metres north of its junction with Newton Close to a point 20 metres south of its junction with Newton Close.

And DYL, from its junction with Bower Place in a northerly direction for a distance of 8 metres.

Chatham Road; SYL, Mon - Sun 10:00pm to 6:00am, western side, that length which extends from its

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

junction with Calder Road to a point in line with the common boundary of houses No.83 and 85 Chatham Road in a southerly direction.

And SYL, from the common boundary of houses No. 75 and 77 Chatham Road to its junction with Monckton's Lane in a southerly direction.

Downs View Road; DYL, both sides, that length of Downs View Road that extends from its junction with Sandling Lane for a distance of 24 metres in a north-easterly direction.

Hillary Road; DYL, eastern side - that length which extends from the entrance of St Paul's Infant School to a point adjacent to the common boundary of houses No.109 and 111 Hillary Road in a north easterly direction.

Sandling Lane; DYL, northern side, that length of Sandling Lane that extends from a point 10 metres east of its junction with Downs View Road to a point 10 metres west of its junction with Downs View Road.

BEARSTED

Hockers Lane; DYL, western side, that length that extends in a north easterly direction from its junction with Bearsted Road for a distance of 122 metres.

Hockers Lane; DYL, eastern side, that length which extends in a north easterly direction from its junction with Bearsted Road to a point in line with the northern entrance to Pennies Day Nursery.

The Orchard; DYL, both sides, that length which extends from its junction with Yeoman Lane in a generally south easterly direction including its south eastern spur to a point in line with the north eastern flank wall of No.9 The Orchard.

The Orchard; SYL, Mon - Sun 9:00am to 5:30pm, both sides, that length which extends from a point in line with the north eastern flank wall of No.9 The Orchard to its termination, including its north eastern spur.

COLLIER STREET

Green Lane; SYL, Mon - Sat 8:00am - 9:00am and 3.00pm - 4:00pm, southern side, that length which extends 5 metres east of its junction with B2162 Maidstone Road.

B2162 Maidstone Road; SYL, Mon - Sat 8:00am - 9:00am and 3.00pm - 4:00pm, eastern side, that length which extends in a south easterly direction from its junction with Green Lane for a distance of 80 metres.

STAPLEHURST

Pinnock Lane; DYL, northern side, that length that extends from a point 15 metres northeast of its junction with Hanmer Way to a point 15 metres southwest of its junction with Hanmer Way.

Hanmer Way; DYL, both sides, that length that extends from its junction with the Pinnock Lane for a distance of 10 metres in a north westerly direction.

South Bank; DYL, eastern side, that length that extends from its junction with the Church Green for a distance of 57 metres in a northerly direction.

Full details are contained in the proposed Order, any Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and at the Maidstone Borough Council offices, The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone ME15 6JQ during normal office hours.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 12th November 2012.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

A2 VARIOUS ROADS, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on the A2 through Sittingbourne, on or after 22 October 2012 for up to 3 nights, between 7.00 pm until 7.00 am.

A2 will be closed in phases between the junctions with West Street / St Michael's Road and Crown Quay Lane, affecting West Street, Dover Street, St Michael's Road and Milton Road.

There will be no access through Sittingbourne using the A2 during these works.

The alternative route is via A2 London Road, Key Street, Sheppey Way, B2006 Staplehurst Road, St Paul's Street, Mill Way, Eurolink Way and Crown Quay Lane.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

ALBION STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water supply to a property redevelopment, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Albion Street, Broadstairs, on or after 22 October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 39, with no access for through traffic between the junctions with between St Mary's Road and Alexandra Road.

The alternative route is via Nelson Place, Crow Hill, Lindenthorpe Road, Carlton Avenue, High Street and Albion Street.

GORDON ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gordon Road, Ramsgate, on or after 23 October 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with St Luke's Avenue.

The alternative route is via Gordon Road, Winstanley Crescent, A254 Margate Road, Percy Road and St Luke's Avenue.

GROSVENOR PLACE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide an electricity supply to a property redevelopment, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Grosvenor Place, Margate, on or after 22 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 58, with no through access between Eaton Hill and Grosvenor Hill.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended between the junctions with Eaton Hill and Grosvenor Hill, to allow access.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Eaton Hill will be reversed.

The alternative route is via Marine Gardens, A254 Belgrave Road, Eaton Road and Grosvenor Place.

MARKET STREET, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Market Street, Margate, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 7.

The alternative route is via High Street, New Street and New Cross Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Market Street will be suspended from New Cross Street to the point of closure, for access only.

SEAMARK ROAD, MONKTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Seamark Road, Monkton, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 5 days, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the entrance to Thanet Earth and the junction with Plumstone Road.

The alternative route is via A299 Thanet Way, A28 Canterbury Road and Seamark Road.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

OLDBURY LANE, SPRING LANE & COMMON ROAD, IGHTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Friday 26th October 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule

Road Name:	Oldbury Lane, Ightham
Extent:	A25 Ightham bypass to Spring Lane
Dates:	Start: 26 October 2012 End: 18 February 2013
Diversion:	Spring Lane, A25 Ightham bypass
Road Name:	Spring Lane, Ightham
Extent:	Oldbury Lane to Upper Spring Lane
Dates:	Start: 18 February 2013 End: 25 April 2013
Diversion:	Oldbury Lane, A25 Ightham bypass
Road Name:	Common Road, Ightham
Extent:	A25 Ightham bypass to Old Lane
Dates:	Start: 25 April 2013 End: 28 June 2013
Diversion:	A25 Ightham bypass, A227 Borough Green Road/ The Street/Bates Hill/Tonbridge Road, Back Lane

The purpose of the Order is for gas mains replacement.

REDWELL LANE, IGHTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Redwell Lane, Ightham, on or after 8 October 2012 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside "The Cottage".

The alternative route is via Common Road, Sandy Lane, Ismays Road.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHURCH ROAD AT PADDOCK WOOD) (ZEBRA CROSSING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police, intends to install zebra crossings at the location described in the schedule below.

A plan showing the locations of the proposed zebra crossings may be inspected during normal working hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Zebra Crossing you should send the grounds, in writing to Miss Laura Squires, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email MHF@kent.gov.uk by noon on 29th October 2012.

SCHEDULE

Type of Pedestrian Crossing	Location
Zebra	Church Road, Paddock Wood at a point 20 metres east of its junction with Clavadal Road.

NOTICE

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 2 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to :-

1) Implement a 40 mile per hour speed limit along Lady Oak Lane (B2079) from its junction with London Road (A21) to a point 775 metres north of this junction.2) Implement a 50 mile per hour speed limit along Lady Oak Lane and Bedgebury Road (B2079) from a Point 775 metres north of it junction with London Road (A21) to a point 250 metres south of its junctions with Balcombes Hill.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Laura Squires, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin

Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 29/10/2012.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 7th October 2012

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

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(T&C's below)

MEL 38yr lonely tall, blonde, attractive with curves in all the right places, WLTM professional discreet male for mutual meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397117**

LOUISE 35yr old living doll who enjoys all the finer things in life looking for mature male who knows what he wants for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397023**

GENUINE attractive, intelligent fun loving woman, 57, hopes to meet well travelled, educated, socially adept man for love, laughter and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396621**

HI I am Tess, single, sexy, solvent, professional but very lonely, looking for genuine fun with reliable male, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395691**

SINGLE professional 39yr old, travels with work, looking for some out of hours entertainment. call me to find out more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395689**

CHRISSY 51, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, large build, size 22, seeks local male from loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395209**

ATTRACTIVE caring lady, 77, 5ft 1ins, GSOH, fit, varied interests, seeks sincere gent, N/S for companionship and happiness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395453**

GILLY green eyed red haired nurse looking to start a new life with similar lonely male also looking for genuine love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395043**

ANNE attractive 30's student nurse who loves to keep fit and travel looking for broadminded professional male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395037**

CLAIRE 19yr old bored busty blonde seeking male for fun times in or out. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395033**

FLOSSY likes cinema, meals out, nights in, looking for N/S male, 65-66 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392906**

5FT 7ins female, blue eyes, black hair, trustworthy, GSOH, likes animals, walks, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396149**

56YR old female, likes music, varied interests, seeking well travelled male, 46-60 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392834**

DEBBIE is 28yrs, petite and blonde. Loves gym and fitness. WLTM a sensitive male, looks and age unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395659**

RACHAEL blonde haired attractive female 27, looking for love with fun guy who like me is not looking for anything too serious, Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394667**

FRANCES is a curvy mid 4O's lady, loves most things, could she love you? Call to find out. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395653**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, well travelled, intelligent, GSOH, seeks genuine, affectionate male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393897**

WHERE have all the eligible bachelors gone? Slim attractive blue eyed blonde, many interests and looking some TLC. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397019**

MAXINE blonde green eyed slim single mum longing for some adult companionship with reliable mature male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397011**

YOUNG at heart widow, 61, N/S, seeks honest, caring man, 55-65 for company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397005**

HI I am Ann a young looking lonely widow, slim, attractive, solvent with OHAC, looking to love again, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395715**

LOUISE single divorcee looking for fun times with likeminded male who likes to have good times in or out. Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395711**

HAPPY go lucky 60yr old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, attractive, looking for honest male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397021**

36YR old single mum, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, medium build, GSOH, likes music, walks, animals, cinema, nights in, meals out, seeks sincere male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396373**

LADY 71, 5ft 7ins, seeks dance partner of similar age and height. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396391**

HI I'm Bev, 44yrs old, tall and blonde. Good wicked SOH and varied interests. WLTM kind chap, looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395699**

SERENE affable black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, friendly, loves reading nature, theatre, music, sports WLTM genuine caring gent, 34-47 to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

EMMA is a dizzy hairdresser, 24yrs old looking for a guy with hair to work on! Any age, looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395695**

LINDA 42, easygoing, likes cinema, walks, theatre, seeks N/S male with similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395523**

JAYNE honest sincere attractive lonely professional, OHAC, looking for fun times with similar lonely gent, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390985**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

MEL easy going middle aged singleton looking for adult companionship with nice male who appreciates a feminine, attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392487**

WELL educated female, slim, smart, mid 50's, needing to restart life, looking for tall, slim, smart gent with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391136**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, professional/military gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394525**

LADY 70, likes most things, WLTM gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394309**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

HELEN 34yr old single mum to one, tall, slim and attractive, WLTM intelligent male for good conversations and adult meets, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394475**

ELISA blue eyed brunette 39, curvy and delicious, loves to travel and live life, seeking similar free spirited loving male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394461**

PAULA 27, attractive brunette, very outgoing and sensual looking for similar male for mature broadminded relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394571**

KAREN pretty single mum of one, 34, independent, professional, OHAC, looking for someone special to enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394563**

MID 40's slim, attractive female, seeks single male, 65-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391989**

DONNA 24yr old single nurse, curvy, pretty, brown hair, big eyes, single and fun to be with, WLTM mature male for romance 25-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391117**

SARAH 27yr old single mum, independent, very pretty, GOSH, many interests, seeking male for cuddles and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391097**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

DENISE very normal single white female, likes nights in/out, keeping fit, seeking genuine romantic black male for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391093**

MARGARET middle aged, attractive, likes storm chasing, cooking, seeks male with GSOH, possible forces. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391648**

TRACY mum of two, blonde, slim, attractive, tactile and very sexy for age, WLTM male 30-50yrs for ltr, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394665**

FIT active lady, early 70's, honest, caring, OHAC, likes gardening, music/dance, seeking nice companion to enjoy life together and have good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394915**

LADY likes most things, wishes to meet gent 62-68 for evenings in/out, cinema, walks, talks and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392472**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

SARAH 29yrs slim and dark haired WLTM older male. Sarah likes various things and wants to try them with you. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395693**

SARAH is a busty blue eyed blonde seeking a fun guy in local area. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395683**

TINA young 64, smoker, GSOH, loving, caring, likes animals, meals out, seeks male for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394201**

JULIE 5ft 9ins blue eyed blonde looking for male for mutually convenient meets, looks/status unimportant, discretion a must. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394123**

SUSAN first time advertiser very lonely and looking for love with considerate, loyal male with lots of love to give and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393489**

TRACY likes nights in/out, seeking honest male, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391884**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

28YR old lady, seeking male, 35-60 for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391756**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

JEM 24 new to this, WLTM someone who also enjoys fine wine/dining for good times and adult relationship, 28-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392497**

ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

JACKIE 32 attractive classy professional, blue eyes, brown hair, healthy/trim, well travelled, feminine, smart, seeks male, 40-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391013**

LESLEY professional single mum, a bit of a chatterbox, loves fine dining/wining, WLTM eligible bachelor to take advantage of. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394659**

SALLY 27yr old Air Hostess seeking honest reliable male to join the mile high club, discreet liaisons and friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394655**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

MICHELE very attractive black single mum, 32yrs, someone you could take home to your mother, seeking a one in a million guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391879**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

PETITE French lady, likes to be pampered, seeks sugar daddy, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

FEMALE 58, widow, attractive, seeking mature gent, 60 plus with GSOH for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379649**

MARIE 45, Irish, GSOH, seeking male with GSOH and lots of energy for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391222**

LORRAINE 32yr old petite attractive female looking for male to turn up the heat on our rather gloomy summer. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393119**

JUDY slim blue eyed blonde, 35yrs, great fun, intelligent, educated, N/S, seeks witty guy for gym dates, friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393135**

VERY attractive single black female, 32, loves night in/out, seeking genuine companion for text fun, love and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393131**

FAY very lonely single mum, 26yrs looking for some adult companionship with open minded, non-judgmental male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393121**

VICKY 26yr old pretty blonde, athletic, good job, great house/car, single and getting bored, looking for male to entertain me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394459**

PAUL 53yrs, 5ft 9ins, 12 stone, quite attractive, seeking lady with GSOH for no strings attached going out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397149**

BLACK lady desired by 38yr old attractive male, OHAC, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397055**

GRAHAM 52, 5ft 6ins, looking for liaisons with lady, 20-50, clean and discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397013**

WELL built guy 62, 5ft 10ins, likes gardening, DIY, scrabble, seeks solvent sub female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396973**

BRIAN caring, loving, understanding, likes nights out, meals in, DVDs, country walks, seeking female for romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396951**

24YR old male, looking for fun with couple. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396877**

DAVID 37, good looking, fit, seeking older lady for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392242**

JAMES 40's, good looking, single dad, seeking lovely lady for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393665**

49YR old male, 6ft 1ins, easygoing, seeking serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394535**

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125

(T&C's below)

54YR old male, seeks mature female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397477**

STEVE young looking 48, many interests, seeks female, 30-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397289**

GOOD looking solvent guy 45, easy-going, GSOH, genuine, honest looking to wine and dine sexy nice lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397235**

MALE looking for someone with an interest in nights out, cinema, tv, friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397461**

MALE 55, guarantees to hit all the right buttons for willing lady wanting exciting get togethers. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397335**

PROFESSIONAL male, seeks female, 30-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396775**

SOLVENT good looking, attentive, discreet male looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393026**

HOPEFUL fun loving, young male, 50, good company, genuine, sincere, easy going, seeks female to rediscover full life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396855**

CHRIS genuine, N/S, 60, likes cycling, walking, seeks soul mate to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396825**

HANDSOME builder, 44, great body, charming, N/S, 5ft 10ins, seeks female, 35-65 for discreet passionate meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392926**

FIT 55yr old male, seeks adventurous lady for broadminded adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396805**

SEYMOUR mid 60's, likes cruising, travel, socialising, seeks active, N/S lady to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396675**

JOHN romantic, caring, likes country/coastal walks, music, candle lit suppers, seeks special soul mate to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396617**

MALE 57, WLTM female 45-55, all I can give is guaranteed love, devotion and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396497**

33YR old male, looking for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396345**

MALE 70's, likes dancing, holidays, meals out, seeks lady, 75-85 to share the sunshine years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396335**

SUB male, WLTM mature extremely dominant female for happy relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395327**

MATURE gent seeks attractive young female as companion on 6 week holiday in late August. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395529**

PRESENTABLE Surrey male, looking for lady for afternoon fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395521**

MICHAEL romantic, honest, caring, seeks lady to brighten up lonely life, likes walks, meals out, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395445**

DOMINANT male, seeking submissive female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396461**

LONG term lover required with no strings by caring, open minded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396423**

ROBERT 43, looking for fun with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392938**

LADY 48-60 wanted for mutual fun and all action adult friendship, by 56yr old fit, exciting and very able real man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396913**

HANDSOME man, tactile, discreet, seeks lady for no strings adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397183**

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ALAN 62, well built, 16st, sub, seeks dom guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396811**

PRETTY blonde 47, medium build, looking for boyish female, 50's for cosy nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388798**

Friendship

JENNIFER 42, black single mum, lonely, seeks white single mum for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382741**

DEBBIE 40, looking for special male/female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378691**

SINGLE straight lady, seeking similar ladies for nights out, shopping, coffee and socialising. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391102**

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Queen legend Brian May is playing under candlelight

SEE PAGE 45

KATZ EYES

America's greatest living artist comes to Margate gallery

SEE PAGE 46

Kent Weekend

Ssshhh!

Paul Zerdin puts his words in your mouth

SEE PAGE 39

PLUS: The search is on to find county's finest young chef - **food and drink p41** Unease at Deputy PM's pension-pot proposals - **property p53** Hyundai is upgrading its original SUV offering - **driving p57**

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THE INTERVIEW

Paul Zerdin

A voice apart

The traditional art of ventriloquism has moved on a long way from a doll sporting a dinner jacket and monocle, as **Joe Bill** discovers

THE resounding image that shoots through many people's minds when the word ventriloquist is uttered is black-and-white television footage of an elderly gentleman holding a wooden doll, *writes Joe Bill*.

The doll is smoking, wearing a monocle and referred to as Lord Percy or similar. It is all a bit odd. But Paul Zerdin is changing that and bringing the skill into the 21st century.

"Ventriloquism was always meant to be funny. You could be technically the greatest ventriloquist in the world, but if you aren't funny then what's the point?"

The 37-year-old has had shows at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival for the last three years and carved out a comedic career for himself on the live circuit as well as on TV.

"I think some ventriloquists have given it a bad name, but there are some amazing people around. Having worked on the circuit for a number of years and at The Comedy Store, there are few acts like me, which is great because we stay unique.

"A regular stand-up show will have four or five straight comedians and then I come out with the puppets. That will be the one you remember – people like something different."

Our age of reality TV has, maybe surprisingly, been good news for performers such as Zerdin.

"I have done four Royal Variety shows now, but the timing of the last one [2009] was very good. Variety had come back into fashion thanks to things like Britain's Got Talent, so there was a lot of luck. But you need that.

"When you say ventriloquist now, it is not some old bloke with a doll that scares people. It's new, it's edgy."

With his "Muppet-type puppets", Zerdin has moved to the sharp end of the comedy circuit.

"It is not a kids' show. It's for anyone over the age of 15 because there's a lot of swearing. People in the past have thought that, because there are puppets, it's a family show. It isn't. It's an adult stand-up comedy show. I am a ventriloquist, but don't hold that against me – the show is funny, I promise."

And it is not just Zerdin's cotton characters like Sam, The Baby and The Old Man who make an appearance. Audience members have a big part to play, too.

"I get a man and a woman – they have got these new mouths, which have been created specially. The man's is very over the top and butch and the woman has a very beautiful, feminine face, so I give them voices to match.

"They end up getting into a bit of an argument and it turns out they have marital problems. I then start counselling them. There is a moment that I leave them to it and I'm still voicing it. I don't think that has ever been done before, so that's me taking it to the next level.

"They are in charge of their own limbs, but I can get them walking around doing all sorts of things. I won't give much away, but it's almost like going to watch Paul McKenna make people do silly things, but they aren't hypnotised. It's amazing what you can get people to do."

But as many comedians and Blue Peter presenters will testify, there is a very real danger in involving people in scripted routines.

"It has gone wrong before. One couple were too enthusiastic. The audience didn't go for it because they thought they were stooges. I learned from that – there's a knack to picking people.

"After a while, you get a feel for what people will do naturally and you can almost pre-empt it, but then they do something you haven't thought of and it can be hilarious, so you try to get people to do the same thing next time."

Zerdin's first TV work came when just 17 with children's show Tricky Business, before he moved on to another kids' show, Hangar 17.

It wasn't until he was 24 that the showman appeared on ITV's successful reality programme Big, Big, Talent Show, with Jonathan Ross as presenter. Do you remember that one? Well, he won it and went on to bag spots on The Royal Variety Performance. Zerdin is, however, clear about the twists and turns of showbiz.

"Television is very fickle and, although I have had some successes on things like the Royal Variety, it eats you up and spits you out.

"I was conscious that if I couldn't stay on TV I wanted to make a living doing live stuff. You have got to work the clubs... TV comes and goes. I can still work in comedy clubs, go on cruise ships and I have been to entertain the troops and also Las Vegas. You can always work if you have got an act."

Indeed, a return to the small screen beckons, with a new pilot to be filmed this year.

"The TV show is a sitcom with me and the characters, so it's like Seinfeld meets the Muppets, and if I can get that off the ground I might be seen in a different light and get to do a bit of acting or something off the back of it.

"The age we live in now, anything is possible and the people you do see becoming celebrities have no experience or necessary talent whatsoever. So if you have got a talent, it puts you in a better position – but who knows?"

■ **Paul Zerdin: Puppet Master comes to The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on Wednesday, October 17. Tickets are priced at £17.50 and available at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk; alternatively, you can phone 01322 220000.**

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Calling all young chefs: this is the chance for your talents to shine

THE most prestigious and longest-running young-people's cooking competition in the county, the Kent Young Chef Award, is under way. This autumn, dozens of schools and hundreds of students prepare to compete for the coveted junior and senior titles open to students in year groups 7 to 11.

The Produced in Kent-inspired competition gives Kent's aspiring young chefs and cooks the opportunity to devise and write an original main-course dish to serve two people that features regional and seasonal ingredients from the county.

Two-time champion Alice Browning, of Walderslade Girls School in Chatham, one day hopes to compete on BBC Two's MasterChef: The Professionals, work with celebrity chef Richard Phillips and then run her own restaurant.

She said: "For anyone who loves cooking from scratch, I would really encourage you to enter this competition. I have always dreamed of becoming a professional chef and this competition is just the best accolade an aspiring young chef could hope to achieve in Kent.

"For any of you who make it to the live final, you'll have an unforgettable experience. I've made it to the final three years in a row now and have loved it every time."

ON A PLATE: Phoebe Icke, the 2011 junior winner

The authors behind the eight best menu entries will head to the kitchens and restaurant at K College, Tonbridge, on Friday, November 23, to compete in the live final in front of a panel of judges headed by celebrity chef Richard Phillips, one of Kent's top restaurateurs. He will be joined by new judge Robert Kirby, chef director at co-sponsor Lexington Catering.

All finalists will walk away with a fantastic selection of prizes, as well as a memorable one-day cookery experience and lunch in one of Phillips's top restaurants – The Hengist, Thackeray's or The Windmill Inn.

Speaking about his involvement in the competition over the past three years, Phillips said: "For the county's would-be future chefs, the Kent Young Chef Award is an amazing first step on the ladder, with the chance for eight talented young individuals to transform their original recipe ideas from paper to plate at the exciting final.

"Several of the finalists have been inspired to go on and pursue a career as a professional chef and Produced in Kent's competition is a great thing to be involved in, whether you want to be the next top professional chef or you simply love cooking."

Go to www.producedinkent.co.uk to download your entry form. Your main-course recipe can be fish, meat or vegetarian and should predominantly feature ingredients that are in season in the autumn and are grown or reared in Kent. The closing date for entries is Friday, November 2.

GO FOR IT: Previous winner Alive Browning is encouraging young cooks to enter the contest

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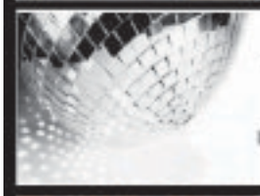

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NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE PAVILION £80.00 pp

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A classical starter
The Lawson Trio

The Town Hall, Deal
Monday, October 8
01304 370220
www.dealfestival.co.uk

THE first of Deal Festival's autumn concerts takes place this month featuring The Lawson Piano Trio.

Emerging as a hugely popular classical ensemble, the Lawson Trio enjoy a busy concert schedule, playing all over the world.

Their most recent concert at the Southbank Centre was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3's Live in Concert programme, with excerpts being selected for the Editor's Highlights webpage.

The concert will include renditions of classic trio compositions by Dvořák and Shostakovich. The show will be the perfect way to kick-start the Deal Festival concerts for 2012.

Tickets are available online.

Laughter is on Amos agenda
Man of talents

Quarterhouse, Folkestone
Wednesday, October 10
01303 858500
www.quarterhouse.co.uk

TOP stand-up Stephen K Amos returns to Kent with his new live tour, Laughter Is My Agenda.

The maestro of feelgood comedy and a star of television and radio, Amos could be on to a huge success with the new show after a sell-out season at this year's Edinburgh Festival.

Having already released a number of DVDs and having a prime-time show on BBC2 in the last five years, the comedian has become one of the most recognisable faces in British comedy.

A gifted actor and impressionist, Amos flips between his subtle, politically-aware, dry wit to a childlike enthusiasm and exuberance.

Doors open at 8pm and tickets cost £17. Over-16s only.

Tribute to the King of Pop
Jackson Live

The Orchard, Dartford
Thursday, October 18
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

AMIR Sharma's portrayal of Michael Jackson is reckoned to be one of the most vocally- and visually-accurate tributes to the King of Pop around.

Sharma has toured around the world and is joined on-stage by a cast of musicians, singers and dancers, who together re-create the unmistakable Michael Jackson experience.

There are classic renditions of all the favourite hits such as Thriller, Billie Jean, Beat It and Smooth Criminal.

Jackson Live comes complete with dance moves and full backing band, so don't delay – moonwalk down to The Orchard today!

Pre-show dining is available. Tickets cost £19-£20 for adults and £15.50 for children.

Pop idol, chef or comedian?
... your choice

Waterstones, Bluewater
October 12, 19 and 24
Ticket details at
www.bluewater.co.uk

THREE top stars of comedy, cooking and music are heading to Bluewater to sign copies of their respective books.

Pop Idol singer Will Young, comedian actor David Walliams and Saturday Kitchen chef James Martin are all signing their stuff.

First will be Little Britain's David Walliams with his autobiography Camp David on Friday, October 12, at 4.30pm.

On Friday, October 19, at 1.30pm, Pop Idol winner and singing megastar Will Young will be introducing his autobiography Funny Peculiar.

The event isn't ticketed, so make sure you arrive early.

Finally, on Wednesday, October 24, at 6.30pm Saturday Kitchen star and TV chef James Martin will be unveiling his new book Slow Cooking.

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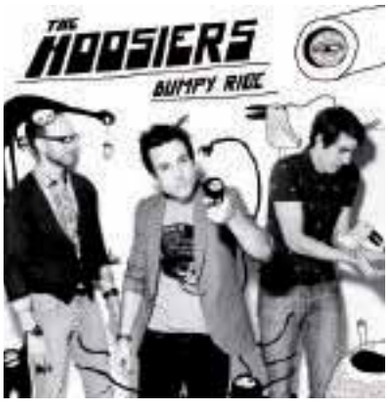

The beat just got heavier
The Hoosiers

Winter Gardens, Margate
Friday, December 7
01843 292795
margatewintergardens.co.uk

THREE years after The Hoosiers first stormed the charts with their feelgood brand of fizzy pop, the boys are back with a new album.

Hit singles such as Goodbye Mr A and Worried About Ray had The Hoosiers at the very top of the UK pop charts. But now with new record Bumpy Ride in the offing, the group have found a new sound.

Out went the skippy beats, the perky melodies and silly costumes... in came synths and dancefloor-friendly bass. If you thought you knew The Hoosiers, think again.

This is the first opportunity to see them with their new sound and new look live.

Tickets for the December gig are on sale now and priced at £12.

Discover the herb world
Jekka McVicar

Lullingstone Castle
Saturday, October 20
01322 862114
Tickets £30

LULLINGSTONE Castle and the World Garden will host its fifth annual guest lecture, with the legendary Jekka McVicar lending her advice.

McVicar will be giving a talk on the World of Herbs after a tour of the World Garden with its creator Tom Hart Dyke and then tea in Lullingstone Castle's Great Hall.

Hart Dyke said: "This is the first time we have had a lady lecture at Lullingstone, which we are very pleased about.

"The World Garden used to be a herb garden, managed by my late, inspirational grandmother, so this lecture has special significance for me."

On the garden tour the host will point out key herbs, including Lullingstone lavender, which was discovered as a fluke seedling in the 1950s.

Comic joins line-up
Marcus Brigstocke

Canterbury Festival
Saturday, October 13-Saturday, October 27
Box office 01227 787787
www.caterburyfestival.co.uk

TV presenter and stand-up comedian Marcus Brigstocke is the latest act to sign up for the 2012 Canterbury Festival.

The arts festival has previously attracted audiences of 70,000 people of all ages to 200 free and ticketed events, and this year's selection will do nothing to cut that number.

Brigstocke, who brings his new show The Brig Society, is known for his panel-show appearances as well as being one of the team captains on Dave's Argumental.

Elsewhere, musician Van Morrison will play during the event, as will folk artist Seth Lakeman.

Get close and acoustic with
... Brian May

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, November 9
01892 530613

LEGENDARY Queen guitarist Brian May is going unplugged for a tour with singer Kerry Ellis, pictured right with May.

The two have enjoyed a successful musical partnership in recent times, with Ellis earlier this year receiving a Best Live Solo Performance award for Anthems, the show arranged and produced by May and premiered at London's Royal Albert Hall.

The pair are now heading out on the road to present their Born Free Tour, a series of 11 intimate and acoustic shows performed under candlelight.

Look out for their own rendition of 1966 classic Oscar-winning song Born Free.

Tickets, priced at £39.50, are available from www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

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01304 203633
events@dovermarinahotel.co.uk

YOU can party like you're in a Las Vegas casino this month, all in aid of Kent Air Ambulance.

The Dover Marina Hotel & Spa will be hosting a charity gala dinner and dance, which includes a casino and auction.

A five-course meal will be served up, with entertainment provided by Rat Pack singer Martin Croons, along with a chance to strut your stuff on the floor.

Punters can take a spin on casino tables and bid on a charity auction hosted by a celebrity auctioneer, all for £49.95 per ticket.

There will also be a cocktail reception at 6.30pm with magician Etienne Pradier.

Alternatively, opt for the overnight break from £79.95 per person, which includes the evening plus a standard double room with breakfast.

Stumbling into Tumblewater
Rural theatre

Rolvenden village hall
Sunday, October 7, at 3pm
07874 214916
rolvendenvh@gogglemail.com

TEASEL Theatre Company is performing Grisly Tales From Tumblewater in Rolvenden as part of the Applause Autumn 2012 season.

It's a bit of Dickens meets Roald Dahl via Horrible Histories with laughs, frights and music.

The storyline is set in the grim town of Tumblewater. Caspian Prye, the twisted landowner, controls everything and everyone – even the police.

Into this world stumbles Daniel Dorey, a fearless orphan armed only with his wits and a satchel of spine-chilling stories. Can he bring down Caspian Prye? Can he rescue the girl in the distant room? Can he even stay alive?

The show is suitable for children over eight. Take a look at www.teaseltheatre.co.uk.

From Russia with true love
Swan Lake

Central Theatre, Chatham
Sunday, October 21
01634 338 338
www.medwayticketslive.co.uk

THIS month you can experience the magic of Swan Lake as the Russian State Ballet and Opera House brings the classic ballet to Medway.

Tchaikovsky's classic tale was composed in 1875 and remains one of the most well-known ballets of all time.

First performed at Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre in 1877 as The Lake of Swans, the ballet tells the story of Odette, a young princess who is turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer and can be saved only by true love.

The famous Russian State Ballet has ensured that this classic show remains just as spellbinding, showcasing the skills of 45 dancers.

Tickets are priced from £21-£22. Concessions are available.

The seascape genius
Alex Katz

Turner Contemporary, Margate
Saturday, October 6-Sunday, January 13
01843 233000
www.turnercontemporary.org

THIS autumn, the remarkable work of one of America's most important and respected living artists, Alex Katz, comes to Margate.

An exhibition under the title Give Me Tomorrow will see a selection of Katz's works from the 1950s to now, including paintings, collages and a 3D cut-out.

Born in New York in 1927, Katz's prolific career spans six decades of classical themes, including portraiture, landscape and flowers.

His paintings are bright, bold and capture an everyday America of easy living, leisure and recreation. There is an emphasis on Katz's seascapes and beach scenes, including images of his family holidays in Lincolnville, Maine.

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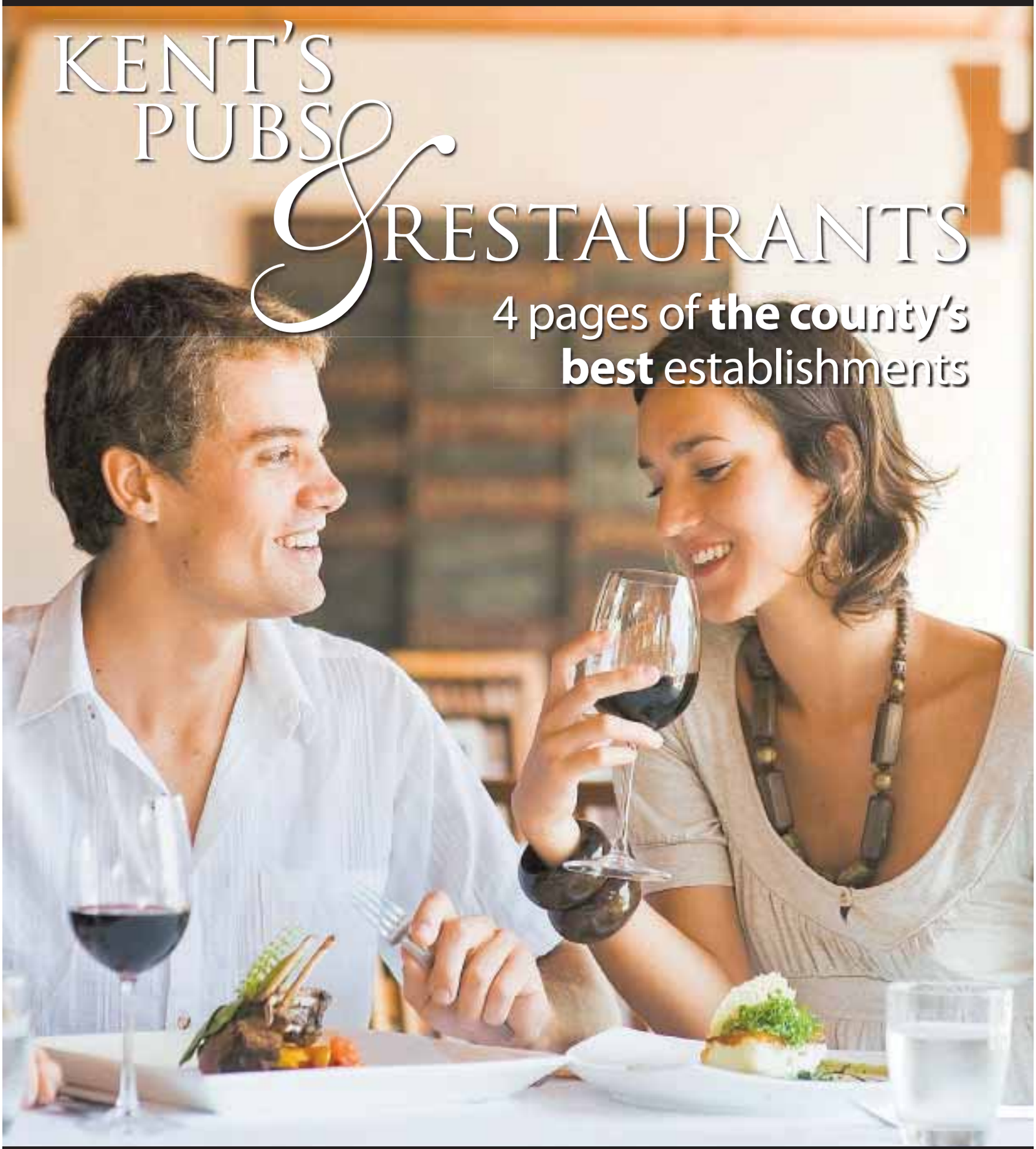
A GUIDE TO

KENT'S PUBS & RESTAURANTS

4 pages of **the county's best** establishments



ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

AUTUMN/WINTER 2012

THE FARRIERS ARMS

The Forstal, Mersham, Ashford, Kent
TN25 6NU
01233 720444
www.thefarriersarms.com

There's a friendly welcome at this delightful 17thC country inn with its cosy interior, riverside garden and pétanque court. Disabled access throughout .

Open from 9am serving breakfasts, coffees, lunches, à la carte evening meals and seasonal bar specials, featuring local ingredients and fine wines.

Sample our Farriers' real ales brewed on the premises.

Private function room hire seating 45

ACORN INN

6 Park Lane, Birchington, Kent CT7 0AQ
01843 841196
www.theacornbirchington.co.uk

The Acorn Inn is a friendly, family run pub with a comfortable atmosphere located in the heart of the seaside village of Birchington on Sea. All the staff are welcoming where we are open daily serving a range of fresh home cooked dishes to accompany the cask ales and lagers, fine wines and spirits. We serve great food at great prices and have been told that the Acorn Inn is 'the best kept secret in Thanet'

We have steak night every Thursday and our Sunday Roast is very popular, advanced bookings are a must!

CAPTAIN DIGBY

Kingsgate, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3QH
01843 867764
www.captaindigby.co.uk

Our award winning family restaurant is one of Thanet's most popular places to dine all year round.

The "Digby", as it is sometimes called, has some of the most romantic views the isle has to offer and is the perfect place for the whole family with children's play areas, face painters on the weekends and lots of activities during the school breaks.

NORTH FORELAND GOLF CLUB

Convent Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3PU
01843 862140
www.northforeland.co.uk

A spectacular venue for any celebratory function, including Civil ceremonies. Our spacious restaurant and upstairs bar, with amazing views over the golf course and the sea, provides an ideal location to wine & dine in a relaxing atmosphere.

Contact the Club to find out more about our free social membership trial.

TRATTORIA ROMANA

32 Bank Street, Ashford, Kent TN23 3QA
01233 638033

Traditional Italian Cuisine, where all food is locally sourced and freshly cooked. We offer daily specials as well as an a la carte menu or a set menu. Our set lunch menu consists of three courses for just £12 or two courses for just £9 served Monday to Friday and our set dinner menu consists of four courses for £19 served Monday to Thursday.

We are open for lunch Monday to Friday from 12 till 2pm and in the evenings we are open from 6:30pm to 10pm.

THE BRADSTOW MILL

125 High Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1NG
01843 861108
www.thorleytaverns.co.uk

The Bradstow Mill is one of the oldest and most popular pubs in Broadstairs.

An easy way to describe it is simply to say it's a good old fashioned boozer!

Every weekend they have live music, karaoke and all major sporting events including premier league games are shown.

There is also a function room for hire with it's own bar, toilet and kitchen facilities.

CRAMPTONS

139 High Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1NG
01843 860428
www.thorleytaverns.co.uk

Great food, great music, great atmosphere. By day Cramptons is a popular place to eat for local business lunches with an extensive menu, specials board and the popular £5.00 meal deal.

At weekends Cramptons is the place to go with special offers and DJ's for the younger, trendier crowd of Broadstairs.

THE LANTHORNE

20 Callis Court Road, Broadstairs,
Kent CT10 3AE
01843 861952

www.thorleytaverns.co.uk

The bar is split between two areas, one for the Rugby and sports fans to enjoy live sporting events on the big screen and the other for the more quiet drinkers.

This popular local pub is home to regulars and local drinkers from 18 to 80 and boasts a fantastic garden that is the perfect place to enjoy a quiet drink in the summer.

Great value buffets

All you can eat buffet
Try our theme night buffets available 7 days a week including a hearty carvery all day Sunday
Adults from £6.49
Kids only £4.49

Buffet Place

Monday from 5pm
Chinese
Taste of the Orient

Tuesday from 5pm NEW
Pie Night
Build your own pie the way you like it

Wednesday from 5pm NEW
TEX MEX
Create a hot combo

Thursday from 5pm
Curry
Spice up your night

Friday from 5pm
Chip Shop
Get together for a Family favourite

Saturday from 5pm NEW
Chicken Feast
Go chicken crazy
Adults £9.99 Kids only £4.99*

Sunday 12noon til 8pm
Sunday Carvery
Tuck into a hearty roast

Duke of York, Jubilee Way, Guston Wood, Dover, CT15 5FD
01304 213617, www.brewersfayre.co.uk

Brewers Fayre

TARTAR FRIGATE & SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Harbour Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1EU
01843 862013
www.tartarfrigate.co.uk

The historic Tartar Frigate is one of the only 18th century flint restaurants in Kent. Widely renowned as one of the best seafood restaurants in Kent, the Harbour restaurant boasts stunning panoramic views over Viking Bay in Broadstairs.

If seafood isn't for you then you can take advantage of the extensive menu, which also includes mouth-watering traditional dishes from around the world.

THE FARMHOUSE, RESTAURANT, BAR AND VENUE

11 Dover Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3HD
01227 456118
www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk

From Lounge on The Farm comes The Farmhouse, a unique restaurant and venue. All produce is locally sourced and hand made for the seasonal menu which is very reasonably priced with dishes ranging from classic to modern British. A £10 set menu is available Tuesday to Friday and Sunday Roast is £14 for two courses. The Farmhouse has played host to Mumford and Sons, Adamski and regular Cafe Theatre runs and is also available for private hire.

THE GOLDEN LION

Mayton Lane, Broadoak, Canterbury
CT2 0QJ
01227 710454

Set in the gorgeous Kent countryside, in the pretty village of Broad Oak is The Golden Lion. Owner and chef Colin Robson has put The Golden Lion on the map as the place to go for quality food and friendly service.

The golden lion also caters for events, including weddings, and the pub has its own marquee and garden area.

Open Mon-Thurs noon till 3pm, 6pm-11pm. Fri & Sat noon till 3pm, 6pm-1am. Sun noon-11pm.

THE HUTCH

13 Palace Street, Canterbury, Kent
01227 766 700
www.thehutchcanterbury.co.uk

Your decision to eat meat free may be a lifestyle choice, as a break from your normal diet or as a result of dietary intolerance. Whatever the case The Hutch will endeavour to provide delicious locally sourced food and drink prepared by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable team.

Whether you are looking for a light lunch, or a special evening meal, The Hutch aims to provide you with the best, fresh local produce straight from the Garden of England.

THE BOWL INN

Egg Hill Road, Charing TN27 0HG
01233 712256
www.bowlinn.co.uk

For those not content to just relax in front of the log fire in the huge old inglenook or play a quiet game of cards, dominoes or shut-the-box, there is an unusual hexagonal rotating pool table. Added to this is an xtensive rural garden and south facing sun terrace which is covered and heated on more typical English summer days! There are also facilities for camping.

THE RED LION

Charing Heath Road, Charing Heath, Ashford, Kent TN27 0AU
01233 712418

www.redlioncharingheath.co.uk

The Red Lion is an old English pub with bags of charm.We are open all day serving food Mon – Sat 12 – 3pm and 6 – 9pm and Sunday roasts 12 – 4pm.Our menu changes regularly and ingredients locally sourced or home grown.

We have a beer garden with small petting zoo.

WAGGON AT HALE

179 Capstone Road, Chatham, Kent ME5 7PP
01634 400800
www.waggonathale.co.uk

The Waggon at Hale is an independent family run business which prides itself on giving all our guests a warm welcome. You can dine with us in our formal restaurant for lunch, evening meals & our very poplar Sunday Roast. Or, you can relax on a comfy sofa, in front of the fire, and enjoy a drink, a snack or something more substantial from our bar menu.
We host many events throughout the year from wine tasting to gourmet meals, quiz nights to live music…
All our forthcoming events can be found on our website www.waggonathale.co.uk

THE WOOLPACK INN

Restaurant of the year 2011
Telephone: 01227 730351
www.woolpackinnchilham.co.uk

With 14 rooms this family run Inn combines great hospitality and a fantastic location to make a trip to remember.
The 600 year old Woolpack Inn is nestled in the shadow of a Norman Castle. With its vast oak beams and inglenook fireplaces it is said to haunted by the ghost of the Grey Lady who wanders the main building. With a known history of landlord's dating back to 1485 the inn has always provided a welcome break. Serving a home-cooked menu with locally sourced ingredients. Simple honest food is the order of the day. Named Kent Times restaurant of the year, runner-up 2011 The Woolpack is not to be missed.

CRAYFORD GREYHOUND TRACK

Stadium Way, Crayford, Kent DA1 4HR
01322 557836
www.crayford.com

Our Heathview Restaurant is the perfect place to come with a few friends and have some fun. Whether it's an anniversary or birthday meal, a school reunion or just a well deserved night out, we will make it a night to remember.

ROSE AND CROWN

High Street, Elham, Nr Canterbury, Kent
CT4 6TD
01303 840226
www.roseandcrownelham.co.uk

Nestling in the heart of the delightful village of Elham, the Rose and Crown represents the best qualities of a traditional Kentish inn.

The patio to the rear of the pub is a pleasant sun-trap and there is a children's play area in the large garden.

Offering a welcoming pub environment, you can also expect good food and modern and comfortable accommodation.

RED LION

Crockham Lane, Herne Hill, Faversham
ME13 9JR
01227 751207
www.theredlion.org

A picturesque 14th Century pub situated in a small village near the town of Faversham. Surrounded in history the pub dates back to the 1300's and still contains many original features. The pub offers a selection of traditional English food alongside the frequently changing seasonal specials. Facilities include an upstairs restaurant, available for dining or large functions, a front patio overlooking the church and village green and a well established pub garden with many historical features and a large play area for children.

GURKHA PALACE

97 Enbrook Valley (Golden Valley Shopping Centre), Folkestone, Kent CT20 3NE
01303 251100

Try an authentic taste of Nepal with regional cuisines. The food of this beautiful country is as diverse as the landscape, so it's no surprise to learn that Gurkha Palace's menu is vast.

Excellent food has seen it nominated for the Best Nepalese Restaurant in the country by the Good Food Guide. Highly commended by Channel Chamber and best customer service award.

THE GEORGE HOTEL

11 High Street, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AJ
01797321710
www.thegeorgelydd.com

Situated in the charming town of Lydd on the Romney Marsh. The George offers a great dining experience whether eating from our traditional menu or our new Black Rock Grill a unique interactive dining experience. The Green Room Restaurant offers a la carte & Table d'hote menu daily from 12pm to 9pm in a relaxed atmosphere. You should always find your taste buds satisfied…

OLD HOUSE AT HOME

1 High Street, Queensborough ME11 5AA
01795 662463

Situated right on the river side, sits the Old House at Home. The location is picturesque, it's a beautiful area to sit and have a drink and a nice home cooked meal.

We are a lovely traditional pub within a helpful and friendly community.

We have a garden, patio and hidden courtyard.

Our opening hours are from 12pm -12am (Saturday and Friday nights open till 1am).

May you come as a stranger and leave as a friend.

THE GRAND

The Leas, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2XL
01303 222 204
www.grand-uk.com

Enjoy dining at The Grand with two unique and differing experiences to suit every palate.

For Fine dining there is nothing better than The Palm Court, Folkestone's finest rendezvous, with its unique ambience, Live Weekend Pianist and superb views of the English Channel.

For something more casual, try a pint of "The Grand Ale" in Keppels, with its London-style wine bar feel.

THE HAMPTON INN

72 Western Esplanade, Herne Bay, Kent
CT6 8DL
01227 374576
thehamptoninn@btconnect.com

The Hampton Inn is a community pub supporting darts, football and pool teams, but there is always room for the visitor to stop and imbibe and feast on the local delicacy on offer that day. From a visitor to a regular is only one visit away. There is a sandy beach to play on, and good walking routes for those more energetic – or there is comfy seating for those who prefer to watch the telly for a bit - but always at the Hampton there is a place to quench your thirst and fuel your body with a good selection of food from light bites to full course meals. Our beer has just been awarded a gold standard too.

THE HOY

10 Fort Hill, Margate., Kent CT9 1HD
01843 232 184
www.thehoymargate.co.uk

The Margate Hoy situated on opposite The Turner Galley next to Margate Harbor, with views of the full sweep of the Margate sands is a recently refurbished, modern pub and restaurant offering a superb range of real ales and wines.

The restaurant menu while featuring seafood and fish dishes also offers steaks, a children's menu and snacks while on Sundays a Traditional Roast

THE OAK HOTEL

66 Harbour Parade, Ramsgate,
Kent CT11 8LN
01843 583686
www.oakhotel.co.uk

The hotel boasts 34 en-suite bedrooms, a Café Bar, Lounge Bar, Function Room and the Atlantis Sea Food Restaurant and Bar.

Ramsgate's award winning golden, sandy beach is only 300 metres from the hotel.

The hotel is situated close to Ramsgate railway station, the busy town centre, Kent International Airport and Westwood Cross shopping centre.

The Channel Suite
at the Leas Cliff Hall

Available for private and corporate functions, whatever the size of your event, be it an intimate gathering or an elaborate affair, fun or formal, we will take care of every detail.

For more information call 01303 224 666 or visit www.leascliffhall.co.uk

THE QUEENS HEAD

78 Harbour Parade, Ramsgate
Kent CT11 8LP
01843 853888
www.queenshead-ramsgate.co.uk

The Queens Head Ramsgate has two main bars, superb outside terrace area, dance floor, games room and a spacious function room for hire.

Our seven plasma screens make us a great place to watch all the football and and other sporting events from around the world.

Every Friday and and Saturday nights our resident DJ`s play all your favourite dance and party tracks.

SIR STANLEY GRAY BAR & RESTAURANT

81 Pegwell Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 0NJ
01843 599590
www.pegwellbayhotel.co.uk

Adjacent to the Pegwell Bay Hotel is our Sir Stanley Gray bar & restaurant, which can be accessed by a unique tunnel which runs under the road! Offering a cozy, comfortable setting the Sir Stanley Gray is far more welcoming than the average 'Hotel Bar'.

Food is served daily from 12 midday right through until 9.15 pm.

THE BLACK PIG

Barnsole Road, Staple, near Canterbury,
Kent CT3 1LE
01304 813000

A fine 16th Century, timbered building, with a large garden. Two comfortable restaurants providing an extensive range of home cooked meals, using locally sourced food.
Food is served from: 12 noon to 3:00 pm and 6:00pm to 9:00pm Tuesday to Saturday.
12 noon to 4:00pm Sunday
A Function room is also available for Wedding Receptions, Parties and Special Occasions.

Dogs, Children, Horses and Passing tractors all welcome.

THE ORIENTAL BUFFET

96 High Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1AP
01732 361666

The Oriental Buffet in Tonbridge has been under new management since January. Customers will notice many positive changes, from the welcoming ambiance and smartly dressed staff to the fresh flowers and candles on each table.

With more than 50 items to choose from and five different styles of cuisine, there really is 'something for everyone'. No more arguing about whether to go for an Indian or a Chinese, or whether you prefer Thai or Nepalese – here you can try it all, quite literally, from very mild to hot and spicy! To book call 01732 361666.

THE ROYAL

Harbour Parade, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 8HA
01843 599599
www.thorleytaverns.co.uk

Lunch menu served daily, traditional pub food to be enjoyed overlooking the glorious Ramsgate Harbour.

By night
Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights The Royal transfers into a fun pub with live DJ's and various different drink offers, The Royal really is the place to be

THE PLOUGH INN

Church Lane, Ripple CT14 8JH
01304 360209
www.theploughripple.co.uk

The Plough Inn is an unspoiled village pub, where everyone is made to feel welcome.

Come and try our homemade pies and other great food from our menu. We have a selection of cask beers to choose from as well as wines, spirits and soft drinks. We are also child and dog friendly.

ANTONIAS

160 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1BB
01732 368 877
www.antonias-restaurant.co.uk

Antonias is a family run Italian Restaurant, passionate about food. Our ingredients are sourced locally to ensure quality and freshness. Our chefs create their own interpretations of classic Italian dishes, bringing you something new and exiting every time you visit.

We also host a range of music and cabaret evenings that are perfect for that special night out.

For an equally great night in, take advantage of our takeaway menu.

MINT LEAF LOUNGE

London Road, Teynham, Sittingbourne,
Kent ME9 9PS
01795521330

www.mintleafindian.com

Newly Open classic Indian Restaurant. Modern contemporary Indian restaurant which serves freshly cooked Indian food where we use traditional cooking methods. Fresh and aromatic. We serve a wide range of dishes something to suit everyone's taste buds.
Monday to Saturday 12-2:30 lunch evening 5:30-11:30
Sunday buffet from 12-5pm A la Carte 5pm-10:30pm
Kids (Under 5s) eat free (Drinks not included)
Banqueting Night every Tuesday £10.95, Free parking at the front

LONDON BEACH COUNTRY HOTEL
SPA & RESTAURANT

London Beach Restaurant

Tenterden

Savannah Coffee Shop

Open daily from 12.30-2.30 for lunch and 7pm until 9pm for dinner.
As well as a Brasserie Menu serving food all day from 7am until 9pm

www.londonbeach.com | Tel: 01580 766279

Open daily from 9am until 5pm. Have a renowned Savannah cream tea on a beautiful summer's day or try the freshly made pies, sausage rolls or soup.
Tel: 01580 766167

All food served at The London Beach Restaurant & Savannah Coffee Shop is freshly made by our executive Head Chef Olly Saunders and his team, with most of the ingredients being sourced locally

READER OFFER Holidays

Call 01895 83 33 33
for bookings and information

Holidays offered by **GN Holidays**, Higher Denham, Uxbridge UB9 5EL • Open: 9am to 5.30pm weekdays; 9.30am to 12.30pm Saturdays • Email: info@gnholidays.com • www.gnholidays.com

Amsterdam & Bulbfields Rail to River Cruise

Escorted Holiday by Rail
5 days full board
From £549pp
Quote AB4-KOS

29 April to 3 May, 2013

The Dutch Bulbfields are always popular, and a visit to renowned Keukenhof Gardens is a must.

Amsterdam offers something for everyone to enjoy, with its beautiful canals, famous museums, flower markets, specialist shops, cafés, bars - and much more.

Nearby are the picturesque old fishing towns of Volendam and Hoorn where cheese makers and clog workshops abound.

On board ship it is easy to relax and unwind while some of Holland's most historic and romantic scenery slips quietly by.

There will be time for your own sightseeing ashore too, as each day the cruise ship will moor at a different port.

Keukenhof Gardens

The MV Virginia

Hoorn harbour

Accommodation is in comfortable outside twin cabins with breakfast, lunch and dinner each day included as well as morning coffee and afternoon tea.

The highlight of the cruise is a full-day visit to Keukenhof Gardens where Holland's finest horticulturists put on a magnificent display of tulips and other colourful flowers in a parkland setting.

INCLUDED:
- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel London St Pancras to Amsterdam (from Ebbsfleet on request)
- 4 nights on board the MV Virginia sharing a twin outside cabin - upgrades available
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner on board each day
- Full-day visit to Keukenhof Gardens

Amsterdam

Grease & Saturday Night Fever Christmas Party

For over 40s only
Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast
Self drive - 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar
Quote XP11-KOS
£99pp

2 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Pontins Pakefield. Enjoy great variety entertainment including a Grease tribute act & movie screening, the best of disco, a 99p Bar every night, ground floor chalet accommodation, an indoor pool, Pakefield's peaceful seafront location near Lowestoft and much more.

INCLUDED:
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night • Variety Entertainment every night featuring Grease tribute act & movie screening • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities - upgrades available

Good value, good service

Value for money, good service throughout our stay. Staff all very helpful and friendly
- Mr Sculpin of Kent

Very good value
- Mr & Mrs Thurbon of Kent

GN People very friendly and helpful - Mrs Norman of Sidcup

What Readers said about our Exclusive Party (Break at Pontin's Pakefield)

Warner Norton Grange Resort, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight Christmas Party

For over 40s only
Warner Norton Grange Resort
Self drive, 3 nights, drinks-inclusive
£199pp
Quote XN11-KOS

30 November, 2012

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without GN Holidays annual Warner Christmas Party Extravaganza. The 2012 event - for over 40s only - will be the usual blend of fun and festivities. Norton Grange Resort - nicely located by the sea at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight - will be decked out for the Festive season. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served on arrival and, during your stay, you will enjoy great entertainment and Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

INCLUDED:
- Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full Entertainment & Activities programme
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- Car ferry crossing

Bembridge Coast Hotel

Isle of Wight Carry on New Year Party

For over 40s only
Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight
Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS Free Bar
Quote BX1-KOS
£239pp

11 January, 2013

Our Carry on New Year Party is back at Warner Bembridge in 2013 by popular demand. Once again fun is the theme with plenty of entertainment and a party atmosphere throughout at this super seaside hotel.

INCLUDED:
- Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment & activities programme
- 3 nights en-suite hotel accommodation - upgrades available
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Car ferry crossing

Come Dancing Party

Enjoy ballroom and latin dancing? We're running our popular Come Dancing Party alongside the Carry on New Year Party - add dance tuition, a Gala Ball and much more for just **£20pp** extra.

To read this and other property stories visit our property blog @ homes24.co.uk ...or smartphone users can scan this QR code

Figures reveal rural people priced out of local homes

HOUSING associations across the UK have united to campaign for Rural Housing Week as rising prices show thousands of people are being priced out of rural communities.

New research from the National Housing Federation (NHF) shows that in 2011 average house prices rose to 14 times annual incomes in rural Kent, while prices in urban areas were only 11 times annual incomes.

In urban areas, the average house price was £211,019, while the average salary was £19,822. In rural areas, however, the average house price was £294,048, while the average salary was £20,698.

This means that while house prices in villages are 39 per cent higher than in towns, salaries are only 4 per cent higher. The figures back research showing that people are concerned about rural housing costs.

Almost two-thirds of people living in the countryside believe there is a lack of affordable housing where they live, according to an NHF survey.

More than seven out of 10 felt families and young people were being priced out of rural living, with seven out of 10 saying they would support a small number of homes being built for local people.

Warren Finney, South East lead manager at the NHF, said: "The countryside is a way of life for Kent, with around 33 per cent of the Kent population living in rural areas compared with only 27 per cent nationwide.

"With rural areas so much less affordable than urban areas, too many people are being priced out of their own towns and villages.

"This has a serious effect on local economies and local families, with 400 village shops and 700 rural pubs closing down every year nationwide.

"Rural Housing Week is a chance for countryside towns and villages to fight for the affordable housing they need."

'Slight unease' as Clegg reveals 'pension for property' proposal

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE National Association of Pension Funds says it is "slightly uneasy" about plans to allow people to use their pension pot as a guarantee to help their children raise a deposit to buy their first home – a proposal put forward by deputy prime minister Nick Clegg.

The Department for Work and Pensions and the Treasury are working on plans to allow parents and grandparents to use up to 25 per cent of their pension to guarantee first-time-buyer mortgage deposits by setting aside part or all of their future tax-free cash lump sum entitlement.

NAPF chief executive Joanne Segars said: "There are housing market tensions which need addressing, but we wonder if this is a good solution. We need to see more detail on how this might work.

"At first glance, this idea leaves us feeling slightly uneasy. A pension can only be spent once and this policy could end up leaving retirees out of pocket. The UK already has a serious problem with people saving too little for their old age.

"The Government has already looked at letting people have early access to their pensions and decided against it.

"People need to keep their pension for their retirement, especially with rising longevity and the costs of long-term care."

BIG IDEA: Nick Clegg wants up to 25 per cent of a person's pension pot to be used as deposit

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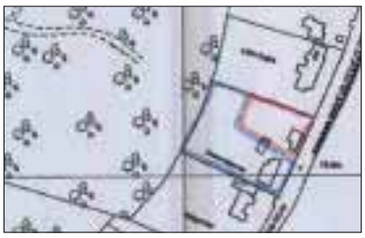

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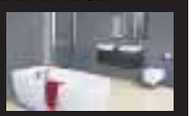

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Waiting list growing for all-new F-Type Jag
- Seven-up as Rapid joins Skoda's family
- A-Class Mercedes to win battle of styles?

Honda takes a practical approach as CR-V gets a makeover

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

1ST DRIVE

HYUNDAI SANTA FE

Price: £21,995
Driving appeal: ★★★
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★
Best rival: Chevrolet Captiva

Hyundai keeping the faith with storming version of Santa Fe

HYUNDAI'S original Santa Fe was the Korean marque's first SUV and is credited with establishing the marque in the US – home of this utility market sector.

It didn't hurt to have a name evoking the famous Santa Fe Trail, a gruelling 900-mile Wild West trade route. Santa Fe means 'Holy Faith' in Spanish, so you get the picture.

And the car has lived up to its rugged namesake and Hyundai's robust five-year/unlimited-mileage warranty.

The new third-generation car will surely maintain this no-nonsense tradition but has also gained far more style, with lines inspired by a brewing storm.

Whether or not you can pick out this so-called 'Storm Edge', the latest Santa Fe is a looker and the ticket price is attractive, too.

OK, it's not quite the bargain it was – the previous range started at about £23,000, while the newcomer begins at £25,495 – but buyers do get much more.

It still offers five or seven seats, depending on model, but you can now buy a more economical front-wheel-drive version.

Safety kit has also been boosted with an active hood to aid pedestrian safety – the first on a Hyundai – a lane-departure warning-system that's a potential lifesaver in 'tired driver' situations, plus seven airbags. Rear load space is a class-best 534 litres with the front five seats upright, and all rear seats can be flopped down quickly with a one-touch release.

Hyundai's shift from value to aspirational brand is also evident in technology you don't see; a lightweight/high-strength steel and aluminium body, contributing to some deft handling for a car of this bulk. Of course, there is some body-roll on the bends, as expected from most SUVs, but I'll accept that for the Santa Fe's on-road refinement and ride comfort.

The car also features Flex Steer, already seen on the Hyundai i30 family hatchback and allowing three settings – normal, comfort and sport – particularly effective for a larger car, where you want a light touch when parking but more feel at higher speeds.

The cabin is airy and well trimmed and the dashboard well organised; this time round, Hyundai has also brought the Santa Fe in line with its other models by mounting the indicator stalk to the right, Continental style.

There's just one engine, a tweaked 197PS (195bhp) version of the refined 2.2-litre turbodiesel carried over from the previous car and highly capable, even when towing up to the car's maximum 2,500-kilo braked trailer weight.

Hyundai has made the gearbox choice harder, though, with a lightweight and frugal auto for the 4x4 version, capable of returning 41.5mpg on the official combined cycle against 46.3mpg for the six-speed manual. The front-wheel-drive eco version is offered with the manual only and offers 47.9mpg combined.

BLAZING A NEW TRAIL: Hyundai's new-look Santa Fe is not quite the bargain it once was but compensates for its slight increase in price with better safety features and impressive cabin space

DON'T LIKE

... to hear the continual badge-snobbery about brands like Hyundai, since here is an SUV worthy of comparison with far more expensive models.

NOT SURE

... the entry price is quite low enough when you consider that this only buys you front-wheel-drive, but the 4x4s versions are real bargains.

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai Santa Fe range: Urban 31.7 (8.9) – 38.2 (7.4), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5) – 56.5 (5.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8) – 47.9 (5.9), CO_2 Emissions 178 – 155 g/km.

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Suzuki's 'omen' reveals shape of things to come for its rivals

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SUZUKI has spooked rivals with its new sports saloon, the Kizashi.

The name is Japanese for an omen or warning – seemingly a broad hint to rivals that there are scarier things to come.

It's also come from nowhere; Suzuki has been a bit of a bits-and-pieces motor-manufacturer, flitting in and out of car sectors over the years and still best known for small cars and affordable 4x4s.

Suddenly, though, Japan's No 4 carmaker is muscling into the family-car sector with the handsome-looking Kizashi.

It's not flawless, and Suzuki expects to have sold just 500 by the end of 2012, especially as it's offered with just the one powertrain for now, a 178PS (176bhp) 2.4-litre four-cylinder petrol engine saddled with a continuously-variable transmission (CVT) auto gearbox.

It's not a combination guaranteed to seduce tax-conscious company-car user-choosers; the 191g/km CO_2 emissions, for instance, mean the first year's road tax is £460 before settling to a still-daunting £250 a year.

However, private buyers might still like the cut of this well-made car, which comes fully-loaded with kit for just £21,995, including all-wheel-drive, and is visually far more exciting that others on their potential short-list, such as the now tired-looking current Skoda Octavia or Seat's reborn Audi A4, the Exeo.

Not surprisingly, the all-wheel-drive makes the Kizashi pretty agile and grippy, though it will be interesting to see how it might fare with a simple front-wheel-drive layout, already available elsewhere in the world.

It's also possible that Suzuki might follow up with a real performance special boasting a 3.6-litre petrol unit, as well as a tax-friendly 2.0-litre turbodiesel – a must if Suzuki wants serious UK volume for the Kizashi.

For now, though, we must judge it by this single 2.4 auto powertrain – and it's something of a mixed bag.

The choice of a CVT transmission is unusual at this level but perhaps not surprising given that a 2.4 petrol engine could be a lot heavier on fuel if fitted with a conventional auto box.

Even better than either would be a double-clutch auto like VW's DSG unit, but, even with the German giant now owning 20 per cent of Suzuki, that's a family heirloom VW might want to keep to itself and wholly-owned subsidiaries.

So, while the Kizashi's CVT box might allow a combined fuel-consumption figure of 39mpg if driven carefully, it's noisy and restraining if you try to exploit the engine's power and the impressive chassis.

The best option by far is to select the six allocated gear settings manually via paddles on the steering wheel, but it's still not particularly fluid and the irony here might be that the anticipated diesel, plus a six-speed manual gearbox and front-wheel drive, could be more of a driver-pleaser than this all-singing, all-dancing all-wheel-drive model.

There's much to admire elsewhere, though: a smart front end, sharp alloys, slippery overall styling and a standard-fit body kit, plus nice details like the two trapezoidal exhaust orifices, a proper electric sunroof, smart and durable leather seating – including electric adjustment for the front pair – eight-speaker sound system and a well-arranged dashboard.

Interior space is also surprisingly good given the car's compact on-road footprint; rear leg-room is the biggest surprise, although the penalty is a smaller boot for this class.

But perhaps this review is less about a car for which Suzuki currently has modest aspirations and more about what it represents; a 'kizashi' or warning of Suzuki's ambitions for the UK market.

SUZUKI KIZASHI 2.4 AWD: PRICE £13,499

NEW WAY FORWARD: Suzuki's unveiling of its new sports saloon, the Kizashi, will see the Japanese carmaker muscling in on the highly lucrative family-car sector with a well-made model sure to turn heads

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£250 (£460 year one)
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First GEAR
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Spiritual successor to the legendary 1960s E-Type, the car offers supercharged 3.0-litre V6 or 5.0-litre power.

Rapid makes it Skoda seven

SKODA says its all-new Rapid saloon, set to slot in between the Fabia supermini and next Octavia family model, will sell from just £12,900 when it arrives at dealers on Monday, November 12.

Four petrol and one diesel engine will be offered, and it gives Skoda a seven-strong car line-up, confirming the VW-owned Czech marque as a serious player in the UK mainstream market.

A-Class to win style battle?

MERCEDES-BENZ will shake up the premium hatchback sector in December with a new-look A-Class, priced from £18,945.

Ditching the mini-MPV profile of its two predecessors, the low-slung third-generation model should now be a handful for the sector's current stars, the BMW 1 Series and Audi A3.

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Offers are available for registrations between 03.07.12 and 31.10.12 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). *Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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CR-V evolves into fourth generation

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HONDA'S fourth-generation CR-V model arrives in showrooms this month, marking a return to more practical ways while still cutting a dash with style.

Anxious to distance itself from so-called gas-guzzlers in the SUV/4x4 sector, Honda appeared to smooth and refine the previous car to the point where it was more a high-riding estate and sacrificed the rear load area's practicality on the altar of style – not that successfully, to some eyes.

The newcomer (from £21,395) looks far sharper, while a more conventional rear end promises better 'crammability'.

And it will distance itself still further from profligate rivals by gaining an 'eco star' version next September, using front-wheel-drive only and Honda's impressive new ultra-lightweight 1.6-litre diesel – with 94g/km of CO_2 emissions, it will be exempt from road tax.

This is the first drivetrain from Honda's new Earth Dreams Technology engine series for Europe and produced at Honda's Swindon UK plant – also the home of European CR-V production.

The front-wheel-drive option was to be expected as more manufacturers recognise consumers have finally realised they rarely need 4x4 but want to keep the high driving position and space of an SUV – even Range Rover's new Evoque offers a fuel-efficient front-wheel-drive eco-warrior.

And the CR-V has always enjoyed a premium position in market affections, being regarded as smart, reliable and good to drive.

LOAD-LUGGER: Honda's fourth-genertaion CR-V continues the impressive pedigree of its predecessors and will be joined by an all-new eco version next year

The new car is slightly lower – by 30mm – against its predecessor, yet Honda insists it has as much room as before, while a simple one-pull action allows the rear seats to flop down for extra loading flexibility.

For now, power comes from two familiar but redesigned Honda powertrains: a 2.0-litre i-VTEC petrol engine available as the entry-level 2.0 i-VTEC S model with front-wheel-drive, or a 2.2-litre i-DTEC diesel. Company-car user-choosers will focus on the latter as it retains its 150PS (149bhp) output but now emits 149 g/km of CO_2 – 12 per cent less than before.

Though one of the best drives in its class anyway, Honda has tweaked the chassis to boost ride comfort and high-speed stability, while speed-sensitive electric steering is designed to ease parking and town use while sharpening high-speed response.

The new CR-V is part of a £1.5 billion vote of confidence in UK manufacturing by Honda, investment that has also included the new Civic (December 2011) and the new 1.6-litre diesel engine (December 2012) – the engine will also appear in the British-made Civic hatchback.

The funding has increased the Swindon workforce to 3,500, who, by the end of this year, will have doubled the 2011 car-production total to 183,000 and set the company on course to 250,000 units per year within three years.

FOOTBALL

Clubs' fight for backing is tougher than ever as fans feel the pinch

By Greg Miles
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KEEPING the turnstiles ticking over is more important than ever for non-league sides as the economic crisis continues to hit fans in the pocket.

And to back their cry for help the annual Non-League Day takes place next weekend.

With England playing on Friday night there are no Premier League or Championship fixtures on Saturday. It's the perfect opportunity for fans of professional football to get a taste of the beautiful game at the other end of the scale.

Kent clubs have joined the campaign offering discounted entry and special rates for their fixtures.

But it's not just about trying to change the allegiance of fans, as Jessica McQueen who is chairman of Blue Square Premier side Ebbsfleet United explained: "If someone supports Charlton or West Ham and doesn't travel away because of the cost, why not pop down to a local non-league club.

"We need about 1,000 to come through the turnstiles to break even and we are a couple of hundred away from that at the moment. I wish it would get more backing, I know the FA is supporting it, but I wish the clubs in the higher leagues would promote it a bit."

Ryman One North side Thamesmead Town attracted just 48 people to their Tuesday night win over Soham Town Rangers which is hardly a foundation for the club to survive, but board member Paul Bowden-Brown is hopeful that can change.

"The way to get fans in is to have a successful team on the pitch," he said. "You need to get the younger fans involved as well."

Whitstable Town had an increase in gates last year, but haven't matched it this term.

Chairman Gary Johnson said: "We need to do all we can to get more people down here. We try to play as attractive football as we can to make it work.

"Last year our average was 191 and that was four per cent up on the previous season."

BACKING: Ebbsfleet United need several hundred more fans at Stonebridge Road to break even

KENT LEAGUE

THE challenge of increasing gates is even harder for the leagues below Ryman level.

Attendances range from 40 to more than 100 for clubs in the Kent League, and although clubs often attempt to entice fans with free entry and reduced rates, they usually see a boost for one game but it doesn't work in the long term.

Chairman of the division Denise Richmond said they are in the process of organising a fan survey in the New Year to find a solution. The results will be available for next season.

"For clubs at our level it's very difficult to attract fans because there are so many more Ryman level clubs in Kent above them," she said. "The good thing is you can get to know people quickly, and regulars know the club and the players.

"The downside is that families are put off to some degree by things like swearing and bad language used by players and supporters which is more easily heard. The facilities are limited but they are getting better and better."

Another problem is fixtures clashing not only with Ryman sides, but the south London professional clubs.

She said. "Clubs inside the M25 clash with Crystal Palace, and Charlton and each other, while Rochester fixtures clash with Gillingham,"

• For more information about the Kent league visit www.kentleague.com.

YOUR LOCAL FIXTURES FOR NON-LEAGUE DAY

Ryman Premier
Margate v Lewes

Whatch Chris Kinnear's table-topping Margate at Hartsdown Park for £7 when showing a valid Premiership or Championship season ticket, that offer also includes free entry for one child under the age of 16 to the game.

Ryman One South
Folkestone Invicta v Merstham

Neil Cugley's Folkestone Invicta currently lead the Ryman One South table. Entry to the Buzzlines Stadium is currently £9 for adults, concessions is £5, and five to 16-year-olds are £2.

Blue Square Premier
Ebbsfleet United v Alfreton Town

Liam Daish's side have struggled this season so far, but recent performances have been promising. Premiership and Championship season ticket holders will be admitted for £10, under-12s are £1 when accompanied by a paying adult. Under-five are free.

Ryman One South
Maidstone United v Dulwich Hamlet

Jay Saunders' Stones have been the talk of the non-league with the move to their new Gallagher Stadium in the town. Entry is £10 for adults, £7 for concessions, £4 for 16-11 year-olds, and under-11s are free.

Ryman One North
Thamesmead Town v Redbridge

Premiership and Championship season ticket holders will be admitted for £5. Concessions have been cut from £5 to £3 and under-16s are free when accompanied by an adult to games at Bayliss Avenue.

Ryman One South
Whitstable Town v Sittingbourne

Justin Luchford's overhauled Oystermen are hoping for a promising season in the Ryman One South. Premiership and Championship season ticket holders will be admitted for £4 which is the price of a concession at the Belmont Ground.

MOTORSPORT

Doran hoping for more after impressive season in Rally Cross champs

LIAM Doran is hoping to build on a promising year in the European Rally Cross Championships after finishing second.

The 25-year-old from Sittingbourne won the final event in the series in Germany last weekend and in doing so came jumped from third to second ahead of American Tanner Foust, but well behind Russian driver Timur Timerzyanov.

After seeing the competition he's up against he is confident he will be able to close the gap next year.

"I have had a lot of bad luck this year and events that we could have won didn't quite happen for me. I can look back now and think that with a little better luck I could have been challenging for the title in the last round," he said.

"This is the first year of my new team, I put the whole team together this year and we've come here with a completely new car and we've had to work very hard to develop everything. So second place in the championship and the win is a great achievement.

"Now we are in a great place to end the year and build for the future. Of course I'd have liked more wins and to have been champion, but now I can see that probably wasn't a realistic aim against the opposition we had. Timerzyanov has commanded the championship in a way that no-one has done for a long time, but it's not going to be so easy for him next year."

Doran felt confident he could perform in Germany after a promising result in Finland in the previous round.

"The team spirit was raised when we got second in Finland," he said. "I wasn't happy because I really felt that we could have won there but the conditions were terrible and everyone in the team had worked so hard for that result that I could feel things were working better. With that I felt confident coming to Germany and I liked the track when we were here a couple of years ago.

"The event started well and I set the fastest lap in timed practice. When it rained in the first heat we had the fastest car on the track but then the conditions changed and we had that crazy challenge of a drying track.

"The heats weren't bad even if we didn't really set the world alight. The pressure was on in the final and that helped me because I knew the win was there."

Picture: JAN KAARE RAFOSS

ON TOP: Liam Doran won in Germany, which put him second overall in the table

FOOTBALL

Gills hit new heights, but are fans bored by league?

By Greg Miles
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IT'S broken a few records, and got fans dreaming of promotion once again, but has Gillingham's incredible start to the season got fans flooding back to the Priestfield?

Martin Allen's side have lost just two games this season, one in the League Cup to Middlesbrough and last Saturday at home to Rochdale.

It sees them five points clear in League Two and early favourites for promotion. They have also set a new club record of five away wins in a row.

But that record hasn't seen the boost in attendances you might expect, with Priestfield operating at a 43 per cent capacity.

After the first five home games there has been an average gate of 5,013. That's just an extra 44 people per game on last season, and a rise of two from the 2010/11 campaign when the club returned to the division following relegation from League One.

In balance, the visiting support hasn't been great. Rochdale had to cancel their coach at the last minute because of a low uptake.

There were just 99 Dale fans in the crowd for what was the Gills biggest league attendance of the season at 5,874, albeit boosted by a ticket offer from the club.

The answer is pretty clear for chairman of the Gills Independent Supporters Club, Gary Liptrott, who has been impressed with Allen's start.

"The only way to get more fans back is to go up a division," he said. "This is our third season in League Two and fans have seen football in the division and haven't been overly impressed. I think people have got bored with League Two. I would like to think the start would encourage more supporters back though."

He feels the club does enough to entice fans to games without upsetting the 2,500 or so season ticket holders: "You have to be careful with the season ticket holders. If they see there are lots of offers there's no point in having a season ticket. People haven't got so much cash either."

A look back to the last season in League One shows that after five home games against the likes of Milwall the average attendance was 6,515, proving Liptrott's point.

BACKING: Priestfield has been just 43 per cent full in the first five home games, despite the good start

MOTOSPORT

All to play for as Superbike duo head into title decider

THE British Superbike Champion will be crowned next weekend at Brands Hatch and Kent's top two riders are well in the hunt.

Sheppey rider Shane 'Shakey' Byrne is currently nine points clear in the standings, while Beckenham's Tommy Hill faces a tough task to retain his title as he's in fourth, 42 points behind Byrne.

The final three races over the weekend are the culmination of a season which Hill has dominated.

However, Byrne dramatically came back into contention at the first of the three Showdown rides, in which the top six riders from the season race for the title.

He recovered from shoulder ligament damage in a matter of weeks to make it to the start grid at Assen in the first Showdown weekend where he claimed a first and a second, while at Silverstone last weekend he finished second in both races.

Meanwhile Hill finished seventh in both Silverstone outings, and suffered a non-finish in Assen having hit a mechanic on the start grid, as well as a fourth place.

Last season was concluded in dramatic style when Hill won the championship on the final lap by just 0.006 seconds.

Byrne said: "We are racing on the edge and there are only three races to go at Brands Hatch, which is one of my favourite circuits so fingers crossed.

"I have had some good results there in the past so with any luck we can again next weekend. I don't want to make predictions as I am taking each race as it comes. I will do my best and hopefully that will take care of the title. It will certainly provide great entertainment."

LEAD: Shane Byrne leads the table

RUGBY

Game by game approach keeps Medway on track

MEDWAY coach Taff Gwilliam insists there is no fear for his side as they adapt to life in London 2 South East.

The club have achieved the remarkable feat of four promotions in six years, their latest last year as they finished runners-up in London 3 South East.

They have got off to a steady start with two wins over Heathfield & Waldron, and Sevenoaks, while coming unstuck away in Brighton last time out.

"There's no doubt about it that with every promotion every team has got bigger, stronger and more skilful," he said. "But there's no fear there."

Much of the success is built on the club's youthful ethos. Five of the first team have been there for the last six years.

"Because we started out as a very young team, most of the team are still here," he said. "The club is developing, it's growing all the time."

Despite the number of promotions there are no big targets: "We don't talk about targets, we don't talk about consolidation or relegation or promotion. What we talk about is the old cliche of taking one game at a time.

"We don't know where we will end up at the end of the season."

Ahead of this weekend's clash with Charlton Park, Medway were sixth in the table, three points above their opponents.

Picture: ALAN BOURNE

NO FEAR: Medway are on the up

BOXING

CHANCE: Adam Dingsdale hoping to impress

Dingsdale set for big test on undercard of DeGale's title defence

HOO boxer Adam Dingsdale is set for the fight of his life next weekend.

The 24-year-old only turned pro in November last year, and is so far undefeated in his four bouts. And now the lightweight fighter has been given the chance to shine on the undercard of Olympic gold medallist James DeGale's European Super Middleweight title defence at Bluewater's Glow centre next Saturday.

With the fight being screened live on Channel 5, and organised by promoter Mick Hennessy, Dingsdale is keen to do the business against opponent Ibrar Ryaz.

"As a pro it's definitely the biggest show I have boxed on, without a doubt. It's a big opportunity," he said. "My manager phoned me up and said I could get on there, it's a bit short notice, but I jumped at the chance. As soon as I heard I stepped it up a bit in the gym.

"He's an Olympic Gold medallist, he's fought the best in the world as an amateur and now he's defending his European title. It's good to be on the undercard for his fight."

Another advantage of the fight is the fact it's nearby. Out of his four fights this year, three have been at the Doncaster Dome in Yorkshire, and the fourth in Brighton.

"It's good to get one close to home, we are going to sell a few tickets and hopefully get a good crowd," he said. "They were big in Doncaster but they are nothing like this, this is about 8,000 people."

The fighter who's based at the Invicta Gym in Queensborough with his trainer Ray Askew, has enjoyed his first year as a pro.

"Every fight I've had I have seen an improvement, and I want to keep it like that," he said. "It's been good. I'm pleased with everything."

DeGale, 26, who won Gold at the 2008 Beijing Games is one of a number of star names on the lineup. Also in action will be Chris Eubank Junior, the WBC International Super Bantamweight champion Kid Galahad, Tyson Fury, and former British Champion Lenny Daws.

On the undercard with Dingsdale are Phill Fury, Brixton's Dillian Whyte, Jordon Gill from Chatteris, Arfan Iqbal from Derby, and Leo D'erlanger from Oxford.

Dingsdale's next fight after next Saturday is in the Brentwood Centre, in Brentwood, Essex, on December 8.

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